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Issue no 109

Why we'll bask in the afterglow of The Open

By Marijke Cox
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TOURISM chiefs have hailed The Open a major triumph which they believe will boost visitor numbers for years to come.

Despite the miserable weather, nearly 200,000 people descended on east Kent for the famous sporting event, which was broadcast around the world.

But chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said it was important to ensure the four-day golf championship was not a one-off success story.

"Once again we have demonstrated that we are more than capable of hosting international sporting events and the global media that accompanies them," she said.

"We are now perfectly placed to welcome the many visitors and sports enthusiasts who will be flocking to London and Kent in 2012."

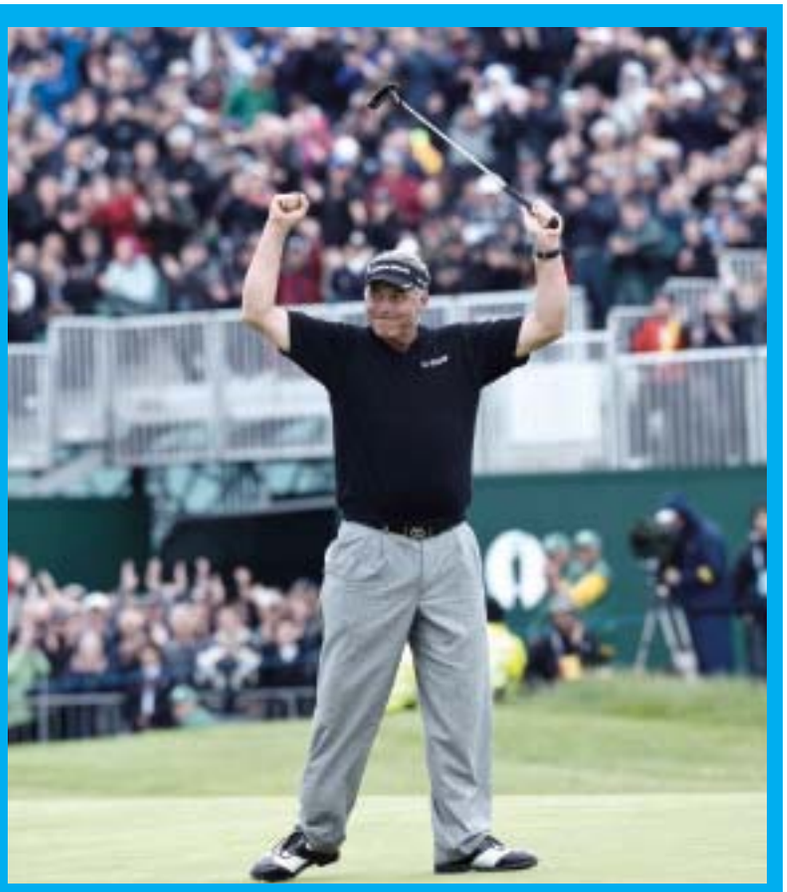
Mrs Matthews-Marsh said she was particularly delighted that The Open had drawn attention to east Kent.

"Following the loss of so many jobs at Pfizer and stories of coastal decline, The Open was a great opportunity for us to highlight to all the visitors to St George's not only the natural beauty of our countryside and high quality golf courses but all the world-class attractions in the area."

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys said tourism body Visit Kent had been proactive in maximising the impact of The Open.

"There were lots of corporate organisations down here and we are having a productive push on the investment opportunities in Sandwich, in east Kent and beyond."

Some 37,000 passengers travelled on the high speed train, after Southeastern extended it to Sandwich. A permanent service will start in the autumn.



Darren Clarke is King of The Open

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POLICE

Top change in cop shake-up

CHANGES are being made to top posts at Kent Police as part of the major shake-up within the force.

Chief Supt Mark Nottage, currently East Kent area commander, will head the new East Kent division, which covers Shepway, Dover, Thanet, Ashford and Canterbury.

DANCE

Teen nabs theatre spot

A PUPIL at All Sorts of Music has been accepted to the London School of Musical Theatre.

Sandwich Technology School pupil Alaric Green, 16, was chosen from 500 applicants for one of the 40 place available.

CRIME

Enforcing the law arrests

POLICE officers in east Kent have arrested a man for burglary during a crackdown aimed at reducing crime.

Three men were also arrested as part of Operation Enforce in south Kent for metal theft, and a Deal woman was charged with handling stolen goods.

FLOODING

Hopes high of decision soon to boost flood defences

DISCUSSIONS have taken place over the need for adequate flood defences in Sandwich.

Minister for flooding Richard Benyon met with MP for Thanet South Laura Sandys and Sandwich Town Council to look at the risk the River Stour poses to residents and buildings of heritage value. At the meeting, they discussed the flood defences needed to be sufficiently protected as well as the Government's new flood defence policy.

Ms Sandys has been campaigning for defences for the town for several years, where water damage from the river has plagued some properties.

"We held an extremely productive meeting with the minister for flooding and the town council to discuss the need for Sandwich to be equipped with adequate flood defences," said Ms Sandys. "As one of the country's best preserved medieval towns, it is vital all local residents and the buildings of heritage value are protected.

"The discussion was positive and we are moving forward on the issue. The minister's visit to Sandwich was hugely important and ensured that Defra saw the flood risk posed by the River Stour in reality, not just on paper.

"I am hopeful that a decision will be announced in the next few months."

An Environment Agency spokesman said: "Significant areas of Sandwich are at risk of tidal flooding. We have developed a combination of measures that provide protection for a one in 200 year storm event, including a new high floodwall at Sandwich Quay."



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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WOMEN'S FOOTBALL





TARGET WOMEN: MP Tracey Crouch got the BBC to show England women play France in the World Cup quarter-finals last weekend

MP battles for her goal of women's World Cup games on terrestrial TV

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

FOOTBALL loving MP Tracey Crouch says she will push for all future women's World Cup games to be aired live on terrestrial television.

The Tory representative for Chatham and Aylesford successfully persuaded the BBC to screen England's quarter-final defeat to France last Saturday, with the game originally due to be shown only via the red button.

And Ms Crouch, who coaches her own girls' football team, told KoS she hopes to continue the trend at the 2015 World Cup in Canada.

"I just felt it was really important for the future of the game and the growth of the game to get the match on normal telly," she said.

"The number of people who watched it (a peak audience of 3.2 million) shows there are people out there who want to watch women's football.

"I think all the games should have been shown, and in four years' time I will be raising that with the terrestrial broadcasters.

"There's a lot of enjoyment to be had from watching the other nations compete, especially teams like Brazil who are amazingly talented and who young girls can take inspiration from.

"Women's football will not be as big in England as it is in places like Germany and the USA until it is given proper television and newspaper coverage. It's the responsibility of all media to help grow the sport."

The final of this year's World Cup takes place in Frankfurt, Germany, on Sunday, with twice-winners USA taking on Japan.

The game kicks off at 7.30pm and will be shown on the digital channel BBC Three.

Despite the backing of millions more viewers on BBC Two, England crashed out of their quarter-final on penalties after a 1-1 draw with the French.

Following the loss, coach Hope Powell criticised the "cowardice" of some of her players for failing to volunteer to take a spot-kick.

Ms Crouch, who coaches the Meridian Girls under-13s team in the Kent Girls/Ladies Football League, could understand their reluctance.

"I think Hope Powell's comments were just one of those things said after the event in a whirl of mixed emotions, and were probably not meant in the way they were taken," she added.

"My own girls' team lost on penalties in a recent cup semi-final, and it's an incredibly cruel way to go. But taking a penalty is a very scary thing to do, and I think you will find that players are reluctant to take one across the board."

■ **See www.yourmedway.co.uk for all the latest news and sports headlines.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cheetah bites keepers

TWO members of staff at a wild animal park have been attacked by a cheetah.

The keepers at Eagle Heights in Eynsford, near Dartford, were scratched and bitten after entering the enclosure to film one-year-old big cat Lena. They managed to escape by spraying the animal with a fire extinguisher.

The incident, which happened in front of visitors at the park, was described as by staff "out of character" for the big cat.

Police brass reshuffle

CHANGES are being made to top posts at Kent Police as part of the major shake-up within the county's force.

Some of the existing area commanders will be shifted to new roles within the organisation while others will head up the three new policing divisions, East, West, and North and Medway, which will replace the current six divisions.

The new model will be brought into action on November 16.

Nurse hunt abandoned

POLICE in Germany have closed the case on a missing nurse who disappeared 10 years ago.

Louise Kerton, from Broadstairs, was last seen at Aachen station in Germany on July 30, 2001, where she was about to catch a train to Belgium before returning to the UK.

The 24-year-old has not been seen since and relatives have admitted they believe she is dead.

Investigations were conducted in the UK and Germany into her whereabouts.

Kent Police officers will continue to review the case.

CRIME

Mastermind behind £2 million cannabis farms used teenage Vietnamese boys to grow dope

DRUG baron John Read is facing a lengthy prison sentence after being found guilty of heading a multi-million pound cannabis gang.

The 54-year-old, of Marine Parade, Whitstable, was arrested after police raided three industrial-sized cannabis factories in Kent in 2009 and 2010. Drugs with a street value of more than £2 million were seized from the units.

Reid, who also ran a printing company and an art gallery in Tankerton, was found guilty of three counts of conspiring to produce cannabis and three counts of attempting to pervert the course of justice, after a five-week trial at Canterbury Crown Court. He has been remanded in custody until sentencing.

Co-defendant Roger Coombs, 70, of Crawley, Sussex, was also found guilty of attempting to pervert the course justice.

Outside court Det Con Dave Godden, from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit said: "The potential monetary gain that Coombs and Read believed they were set to receive from these factories was substantial. Their so-called business employed young, Vietnamese boys as gardeners – one as young as 13 years old.

"These boys livid in squalid conditions within the factories, where electrical fires would have been a constant risk to their lives."

The first cannabis factory was discovered at Higher Shelvin Farm, Wootton, near Dover, on August 5, 2009.



HAUL: John Read's drug farms were worth £2m

The barn's interior had been sub-divided into 10 rooms. 'Farmers' had been living on-site in a small caravan. More than 1,400 cannabis plants with a potential street value of more than £1m were found in nine rooms.

Eight months later, on April 15, 2010, police executed a search warrant at three adjoining industrial units in Coombe Valley Road, Dover.

Officers found more than 3,000 cannabis plants, worth £1m, and high-powered hanging light units with power packs. Two Vietnamese 'gardeners' were arrested within the units.

Six weeks later, on May 27, 2010, officers executed a warrant at a large industrial unit on the Joseph Wilson Industrial Estate, Whitstable. A total of 966 growing plants were seized.

Two Vietnamese boys – 13 and 17 – were arrested and later pleaded guilty to producing cannabis. Read will be sentenced in August.

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YOUTH CENTRES

Young people feel the force of £1m in cuts

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

YOUTH centres could be closed throughout Kent as part of county council plans to save more than £1 million over two years.

County Hall is proposing a major restructure of its youth service which could also result in the end of funding for 27 other projects.

The council wants voluntary groups and charities to take over the running of many of its services, which are available to 131,000 young people aged 13-19.

The restructure could result in Kent having just one 'hub' youth centre in each of the 12 district council areas, with those no longer required or not taken over by other providers being sold.

Kent Youth County Council member Dara Farrell, 18, regularly attends XC Youth Centre – also known as Christchurch – in Ashford, which is one of those at risk.

He said: "If it wasn't for the youth centre then I would never have met so many politicians and got on the Youth County Council. Some of the people I used to hang around with have done prison sentences already, so there's a possibility I could have gone the same way.

"If Christchurch closes then are we all going to walk to the other side of Ashford to get to the hub centre? Probably not, meaning there won't really be any youth provision for the majority of young people.

"It's also worrying that KCC expects the voluntary sector to pick up where they leave off.

"A lot of the good work volunteer groups do is heavily supported by Kent Youth Service staff and based in Kent Youth Service centres, so I'm not sure they'll be able to cope if that support disappears."

In a report setting out its plans, KCC says that instead of the authority running all youth services in-house, each district area should have a 'core offer' consisting of a hub, one street-based project, and one or more school-based youth workers.



CHANGES: The cuts would mean each area would have a 'youth hub', with the hope being that volunteer groups will take over the running of many youth services

Jobs are also expected to go as a result of the shake-up, with 64 staff facing redundancy and a further 60 who work on specific projects also under threat.

"Youth services are the easiest to cut because most young people can't vote, and those who can often don't," said Dara. "The majority of councillors would never have set foot in a youth centre when they were my age; they can't relate to young people."

The planned restructure is due to be discussed by cabinet members on Monday, July 18. A public consultation will begin on August 1 and run until the end of October.

Cabinet member for customer and communities, Cllr Mike Hill, said: "These proposals are intended to transform the way we deliver services to young people so that we can continue to provide a first class service despite the severe financial pressures we all face."

Meanwhile, Kent Green Party has launched an online petition against what it calls the "ideological idiocy" of the youth cuts. See the website alturl.com/d8wuj to find out more details abou the campaign.

CUTS

Spending almost £5m over budget in bid to fix child services failings

SIGNIFICANT financial pressures involving a predicted £5 million overspend at County Hall have been revealed in the first report since a shake-up of the council top brass.

In a document due for discussion by cabinet on Monday, July 18, pressures which could unbalance the authority's bank balance for 2011-12 were identified, with the much-needed improvement of children's services being the main cause of the overspend.

The budget forecasts showed that although the £95m savings required in 2011-12 as part of spending cuts at Kent County Council were "on track", there was a risk of a £4.9m overspend.

Cabinet member for finance and business support, Cllr John Simmonds, one of the authors of the report, said work was being undertaken to reduce the this for the next quarter.

Cllr Simmonds and acting corporate director of finance and procurement, Andy Wood, said in the report it was not unusual to have a forecast overspend of that size at this stage of the year: "In the context of a savings requirement of £95m, increasing demands for services, and the need to deliver the Children's Services Improvement Plan, the ask to deliver a balanced budget is severe.



REPORT: Cllr John Simmonds

"Every effort will be made to balance the budget and avoid any overspend at year end."

Earlier this year, a shake-up at County Hall as part of the savings plan saw services split between five new directorates: education, learning and skills; families and social care; enterprise and environment; customer and communities; and business strategy and support, in a bid to create a "leaner and fitter" authority.

But despite moves to save money, a damning Ofsted report which saw KCC rated "inadequate" for its safeguarding and looked-after-children services and weeks later the whole of the former children, families and education department – now families and social care – rated "poor", meant added financial pressure.

The launch of the Children's Services Improvement Plan, and other measures, has resulted in a predicted overspend of £10m in the families and social care directorate.

However, taking into account a £2.1m under-spend at KCC in 2010-11, this figure has been reduced to £7.9m.

Other directorates have remained within their budgets or made savings which resulted in the total overspend prediction of £4.9m for 2011-12.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder appeal anger

THE brother of a woman murdered by her husband says he is "disgusted" at the killer's decision to appeal his conviction.

Malcolm Webster, 52, from Surrey, was jailed for a minimum of 30 years earlier this month for murdering Claire Morris, originally from Upchurch, near Rainham, in Aberdeenshire in 1994.

Ms Morris' brother Peter said he was "disgusted" after learning through Webster's solicitor that the killer was due to appeal.

130-mile coastal trek

A MAN from Kent has walked 130 miles along the county's coastline over seven days, visiting all nine of the county's lifeboat stations, to raise funds for the RNLI.

Michael Smith, from Sandgate, set out from Gravesend lifeboat station, finishing on the shingle beach of Dungeness.

He has raised £1,550 for the RNLI. Anyone wishing to donate can visit virginmoneygiving.com/awalkinthegarden.org.uk

Free community trees

MORE than 20,000 trees are available to community groups, schools, parish councils and charities across Kent to 'green' their spaces.

The environmental initiative is part of the Kent Free Trees Scheme, which over the past 10 years has given away a quarter of a million trees to communities and residents.

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EDUCATION

Almost a fifth of primaries offer no male role model to our youngsters

By Marijke Cox
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MORE than 100 primary schools in Kent do not have a single male teacher.

Shocking figures from the Department of Education revealed that nationally only 15 per cent of teachers in nurseries, primaries and preparatory schools are men.

In Kent, 104 primary schools out of around 480 have no male teachers, sparking fears that some children, particularly those from single-parent families living with their mothers, are having little contact with male role models before they reach secondary school.

Experts from the Campaign for Real Education said young boys especially needed role models and should have at least two male teachers.



LEARN: Boys in particular need male role models

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said for some years there had been a drive to attract more men into the teaching profession, including taster courses.

"The matter is subjective," said Cllr Hohler. "On one side there is the view that children who do not have a male role model in their lives could benefit from a male teacher. Others argue that teachers should be employed on merit and not gender, and that it is for families to provide fit and proper male role models."

Department for Education figures for 2010-11 also revealed that in the South East the majority of male primary school teachers were aged between 55-59. Only 17 were under 24 years old, and 100 between 25 -29.

Kent secretary of the National Teachers Union (NUT), John Walder, said historically there had always been more women in primary teaching.

"There are a number of reasons for this; the fact that teaching is not a well-paid profession where a large number of men, who may be the breadwinners, opt to do something else; the convenience for women to have the holidays to look after their children; and there's the fact teaching young children appeals to women more."

However, Mr Walder said the impact of the recession could spark a change in this figure.

"In the past when there have been economic problems, there tended to be an increase.

"If you look at Pfizer this could happen. I have seen several people at Canterbury Christ Church looking at teaching who are at Pfizer."

Mr Walder added that where there were men in primary schools, they were most often the headteacher. He said: "A lot of that is actually down to a lack of ambition in some women – a lack of determination to rise up the ladder."

POLICE

Sex crime on the rise but overall figures reduced

KENT has seen a rise in the number of sex offences, while violent crime dropped to its lowest level in four years, according to new Home Office figures.

The latest statistics for 2010-11 showed recorded crime in Kent and Medway had reduced by more than a quarter since 2007 – around 40,000 less offences. But while violent crime was down 5.3 per cent year on year – 1,255 less offences – and crimes involving knives and firearms was down by 10 per cent and 28 per cent respectively, sex offences were on the up.

Kent saw a 2.3 per cent rise in sex crimes (31 offences) and 0.2 per cent rise (two offences) in serious sex cases, but Medway experienced a worrying 15.2 per cent (25 offences) increase in serious sex crimes.

Kent Police, however, said many of those were historical, from victims too afraid to have come forward before now.

Fraud and forgery offences also increased, with a 3.3 per cent rise (131 crimes), which was attributed to officers detecting more of that type of crime, which led to further offences being discovered.

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Brandon said he was pleased by the figures.

"The risk of becoming a victim of crime in Kent is the lowest for four years," he said. "However, we will not be complacent and will continue to work with our partner agencies to reduce crime and the impact of crime on our county.

"We will be carrying out a series of initiatives to further reduce crimes, such as the current burglary campaign. The increase in our neighbourhood officers will enable us to focus on offences such as burglary, theft and antisocial behaviour, all of which are upsetting for the victims."







EDUCATION

Tuition fees leave students thinking twice about a degree

By Mathew Beech
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ALL of Kent's four universities will be charging students £8,300 or more in tuition fees from 2012.

The University of Kent (UKC), Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU), the University of Greenwich, and the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) have all had their tuition fees rates confirmed by the Government.

UKC will be charging its students the maximum £9,000 per year for degree courses, while CCCU and UCA will cost £8,500 each per year, and students at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus will face fees of £8,300.

The substantial increase from current levels of about £3,500 comes as government funding for higher education has been cut by 80 per cent.

Rory Weal, a student at Oakwood Park in Maidstone, says some of his friends are reconsidering their university plans as they face debts of more than £27,000 by the time they graduate.

The 16-year-old said: "It is such a huge figure it is difficult to comprehend and I am burying my head in the sand; I'm hoping that with my qualification I can get a good job and pay it off.



HIGH PRICE: Students in Kent are set to pay close to the £9,000 maximum

"My friends and colleagues at school are really thinking about whether university is right for them and are reconsidering their options.

"It is encouraging the next generation to get into debt and that is not the right message to be sending out."

UCA students' union chair of trustees Benjo Taylor said: "UCA students' union is disappointed that fees have had to be set at such a high level to maintain the existing quality of education.

"The Coalition Government are attacking education and it's unacceptable to risk the fate of both incredibly lucrative UK industry and the future of thousands of young people."

Cuts have left many universities facing a shortfall in revenue, which they have passed on to prospective students.

Professor Mark Hunt, deputy vice-chancellor of UCA, said: "Student fees will provide our main source of funding for teaching and investing in the facilities needed to provide students with a high quality creative arts education."

To be able to charge students fees of more than £6,000, all the institutions have to provide financial support to undergraduates from lower income backgrounds. With the bursaries and grants available, the average fees the prospective undergraduates can expect to pay in Kent are £7,751 at CCCU, £8,330 at UKC, £8,500 at UCA, and £7,649 at the University of Greenwich at Medway.

CCCU's vice-chancellor, Prof Robin Baker, said: "This fee, together with the range of financial support we'll make available, reflects out determination to ensure university education at CCCU remains accessible to those who will most benefit from it, particularly students from lower income backgrounds."

AGRICULTURE

Polytunnels' green light

A FARM has been given unanimous approval by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to keep using huge polytunnels to produce soft fruits.

The decision followed heated debate, with almost 200 letters of objection claiming the plastic coverings ruined the landscape and contributed to drainage problems.

But Hugh Lowe of Lowe Farms in Mereworth, near Kings Hill, saw the planning committee give them the thumbs up.

The farm has been using polytunnels for a number of years.

It applied for retrospective permission to formalise the use of its tunnels, which rotate over the 165 hectares – which represents 30 per cent of its land.

ENVIRONMENT

Muddy for a good cause

KENT Ambassadors rolled up their sleeves to help build the mud walls of Canterbury Oast Trust's environmental project.

The Interpretation Lodge, at the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch near Ashford, is made using sustainable materials and traditional methods. It educates visitors about environmental concerns and the work of the Canterbury Oast Trust.

Kent Ambassadors – including artist Graham Clarke, Brigadier David Ralls and former BBC Radio presenter Barbara Sturgeon – got their hands dirty on Wednesday.

VOLUNTEERS

Help open up pathways

KENT County Council is appealing for volunteers to help its Countryside Access Service.

The council wants to recruit access wardens to help by cutting back vegetation, fixing path signs and being the 'eyes on the ground'.

See www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess, email cas.volunteer@kent.gov.uk or call 01622 696979.







ENTERTAINING: Clockwise from top left: Ellie Goulding, Graham Coxon and Katie B were among the acts performing at this year's festival

FESTIVAL

10,000 reasons why Lounge on the Farm has officially made it

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SEVEN years ago a flatbed truck with a band playing on the back drew a small crowd in the centre of Canterbury.

Among them was Sean Baker, who was watching with the son of a local farmer.

Ideas were exchanged and a telephone number hastily scrawled on a cigarette pack.

Two years later Merton Farm became a music venue when around 1,000 people turned up to see sets by the likes of Vincent Vincent and the Villains as Mr Baker made his idea a reality.

Last weekend the crowd was 10 times that number as Lounge on the Farm became a firm fixture in the festival calender with headliners The Streets, Ellie Goulding, and Echo and Bunnymen – who closed the event on Sunday.

Goulding, who is a former University of Kent drama student, told the crowd she was excited to be back in Canterbury. Her set on Saturday drew a young crowd – but not quite so pre-teen as that which greeted Katy B earlier in the day.

Showing the diversity of the festival – which has as its official media partner Archant KOS Media – The Meadows stage featured Blur guitarist and Kent resident Graham Coxon.

Friday night had been a wet one with many festival goers thankful for their wellies as they watched The Streets produce one of the highlights of the festival with stand out numbers Fit But You Know It, and Facebook anthem OMG.

Singer Mike Skinner took the opportunity to praise the festival's food – especially the burritos – and removed the O from the letters spelling Lounge on the Farm" at the front of the stage.

"When Ellie Goulding gets on stage will you do something for me?" he asked. "When she says 'hello Lounge on the Farm' tell her it's 'lunge'."

Other highlights included local band Caravan, the steel guitar of Bob Log III, and the 1920s-style jazz-blues of CW Stoneking.

The cowshed saw DJs performing with Radio 1's Annie Mac's set a highlight on Friday. The cows themselves were moved.

Fans praised the music and the food, some of which had been produced on the farm itself.

■ **See www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for all the latest news and sports headlines.**





Pictures: PAUL JERREAT





THEATRE

The front row view from the new Marlowe

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@kosmedia.co.uk

A SNEAK preview tour of the new Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury took place this week.

The £25.6 million project is due for completion by September with the first gala opening performance on October 4.

The theatre boasts a 1,200 seat auditorium and includes a 150-seat studio theatre for smaller productions, as well as bars and a riverside restaurant.

Mark Everett the theatre's director said: "The sheer feel of the place is very exciting. Our first performance will be by the French Canadian troupe Cirque Eloize. It is the UK premier and the sort of show that we would never have been able to stage in the old theatre. The technical side of it just would not have been possible."

The building is designed by architect Keith Williams and is on the site of the old Marlowe Theatre close to the River Stour. The old converted cinema was demolished to make way for a new dedicated theatre building, although the design retained the scenery flying tower of the old Marlowe.

The playhouse consists of two circles of seats and the ground-floor stalls. The circle bar will offer one of the best views of the cathedral in the city.

The main funding for the work is from Canterbury City Council, which contributed around £16m. Kent County Council gave £4m, with nearly £2m from the defunct South East England Development Agency. The rest has been raised from the private sector.

Contruction by builder Jacksons is on time and in budget.

Mr Everett was also sure the new theatre would bring a boost to the local economy.

He said: "We expect the theatre will generate around £22m per year. That includes theatregoers coming to Canterbury, actors and technicians staying locally and services ordered in for the theatre."

The Marlowe itself expects to turn over £10m a year.

Around 40 new permanent jobs will be created, with 130 part-time front-of-house staff.

He was also positive it would help nurture new local talent.

"Our youth theatre will be in the studio and we have plans to work with the schools and universities and older people. Of course the success of the operation depends on the main theatre. Our first priority is to get the theatre up and running."

■ **See www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for news and sport.**





Pictures: TIM STUBBINGS

FUTURE: Left, Mark Everett in the main theatre; right, a member of staff enjoys the stunning view from the circle bar

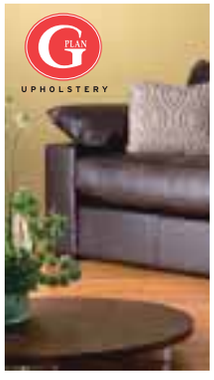
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FESTIVAL

County show celebrates

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



'THIS Is Your County, Your Show' is the motto of the 82nd Kent County Show, which is taking place this weekend at Detling.

Last year some 85,000 people attended the three-day event showcasing the very best of the county's agricultural produce and highlighting innovations and breakthroughs in rural industry.

The celebration of country living is also the largest gathering of young farmers in the UK and where some of the country's finest livestock are exhibited.

"The Kent County Show is now placing agriculture at the forefront and it is my belief that this industry underpins the economy of Kent and therefore makes a valuable contribution both economically and socially to the county," said chairman George Jessel.

The event's patron, HRH The Duke of Kent, visited the show on Friday, arriving by helicopter, and was greeted by Lord Lieutenant Alan Willett, High Sheriff Mrs Georgie Warner, Kent County Agricultural Society president Lady Astor of Hever and Mid Kent and Faversham MP Hugh Robertson.

The duke then set off on foot for the young farmers' area and toured marquees housing 108 beef cows, 22 dairy cows, 97 pairs of lambs and 27 pens of pigs.

His next destination was the Why Farming Matters In Kent area. This has been set up to inform visitors about food-production in the county and includes a living orchard of Braeburn trees grown by James Smith, of Loddington Farm, Linton.

Also on show was a strawberry polytunnel, an innovation that allows growers to maximise yields, cut harvesting costs and chemical applications and provide more than one crop each season.

"Kent produces between 40 and 60 per cent of the country's top fruit, apples and pears," said John Guest, who has spent a lifetime in the business.

"It is a very important contribution to UK agriculture and varieties are increasing."

Cookery demonstrations with samples of Bramley apple pie were on hand, as was the opportunity to make your own apple juice and learn about the story of beer and hops in the county, courtesy of Shepherd Neame.

A lunch hosted by Lady Astor followed, before the duke was shown a tractor with a GPS system.

Other attractions for visitors include a display of horsemanship from the Devil's Horsemen and motorcycle expertise from the Royal Artillery riders, as well as ferret races and dogs trained to corral ducks.









BIG EVENT: The Duke of Kent, above, was one of many people to visit the annual county show, which offered a wonderful variety of sights and activities for people to see and enjoy

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HEALTH

Huge increase in numbers of people suffering depression

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT is suffering a massive increase in rates of depression, with one part of the county seeing patient numbers rise by 75 per cent in just two years

Just over 121,000 adults sought help for the mental health condition in Kent in 2009-10 compared to 98,740 in 2007-08. The figures include a staggering 75 per cent rise in the number of people being diagnosed by Medway doctors, from 10,158 in 2007-08, to 17,807 in 2009-10.

The increase coincides with the UK's economic downturn – which has caused problems likely to have a negative impact on people's moods – but health experts say there may be a more simple explanation for the higher numbers.

Dr Joanne Ross, from NHS Medway, said: "Previously there has been a lot of undiagnosed depression, but there have recently been a lot of national campaigns aimed at raising awareness and increasing the range of services available.

"Anyone can get depressed and you can see how a whole load of negative life events may well contribute to someone's low mood. But whether that then reaches the level of a diagnosable clinical condition depends on family support, personal resilience and a whole lot of other factors. There's no research that says any one particular set of events, like the economic problems, will cause depression."



LOW MOOD: Depression on rise in Kent

Despite Dr Ross' claims, the Lancet medical journal reported last week the financial crisis "almost certainly" led to an increase in suicides across Europe.

The analysis by US and UK researchers found a rise in suicides was recorded among working age people from 2007 to 2009, in nine of the 10 nations studied.

Meanwhile, the number of people diagnosed with depression in the NHS west Kent region has risen by almost 30 per cent in the last three years, from 37,562 to 48,534.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent experienced the smallest increase of just seven per cent, from 51,020 to 54,723.

According to official NHS statistics, one-in-four women will require treatment for depression at some point in their lives compared to one-in-10 men.

However, men are more likely to commit suicide because they are less likely to seek help for their condition.

Chatham and Aylesford Tory MP Tracey Crouch requested the Medway figures from health minister Paul Burstow.

She said: "Depression is a classless condition that can be triggered by single or multiple events in a person's life.

"It is important we consider how we tackle the increasing number of people being diagnosed with depression. The Government is looking at how to ensure mental health is a central part of health and social care policy, but it is essential this is delivered on and not just talked about."

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ELDERLY CARE

KCC may step in to keep threatened Southern Cross care homes open

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council is prepared to provide funding to keep threatened Southern Cross care homes open for their elderly residents.

The company announced its demise this week after months of speculation about its financial woes, meaning its portfolio of 752 homes will be broken up and returned to the landlords Southern Cross had been renting the properties from.

However, little is known about many of the owners, with the GMB union referring to them as a "ragbag bunch" whose number includes overseas interests.

Kent is home to 10 Southern Cross care homes employing 594 staff and with 593 beds for elderly residents.

GMB national officer Justin Bowden said: "Southern Cross may be on its last legs but for its residents and staff this looks like a case of 'out of the frying pan, into the fire'.

"All this spells months more uncertainty and worry. Where is the Government? The ears of the vulnerable residents and staff must be ringing from the deafening silence from Downing Street."

According to information obtained by the GMB, four of the Southern Cross care homes in Kent – Fairfield Manor and Woodlands in Broadstairs, Highfield in Bekesbourne, and Lauriston House in Bromley – are owned by the London-based property investment group Loopsign Ltd.

A further two – Copper Beeches in Rochester and Kingsfield in Faversham – belong to companies registered in Guernsey, while Adelaide in Bexleyheath and Frindsbury Hall in Strood are owned by firms in the Cayman Islands and Gibraltar respectively. Little is also known about PSX Holdings Ltd – the owners of Bromley's St Raphael's – while the identity of the landlord of Elvy Court in Sittingbourne is unknown.

Kent County Council funds the care of 94 people living in five of the homes, and says it expects to hear from Southern Cross regarding the future of the properties by the end of this month.



WORRY: There are almost 600 beds at the 10 Southern Cross care homes across the county

Cabinet member for adult social services, Cllr Graham Gibbens, said: "We will continue to work with each of the five homes, and others, to make sure the welfare of residents remains the top priority and all those involved are kept safe.

"Officers are also talking to landlords to find out their plans, as the closure of the company will not necessarily mean homes stop operating.

"The county council is ready to provide short-term funding to make sure of the ongoing short-term viability of each home, and to make sure the residents will remain safe."

KCC has set up a helpline for residents and their families on 08458 247 100.

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MEMORIAL

Canadian wins memorial fight for victims of 1929 tragedy

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A LONG overdue memorial for victims of a public fire display that went tragically wrong has finally been unveiled.

Nine adults and six children burned to death during the Gillingham Park stunt in July, 1929, when a blaze started by the town's firefighters raged out of control.

Canadian dental hygienist Lori Oschefski – a relative of one of those who perished – has been campaigning since last summer for a permanent memorial for the victims, and last Sunday her wish was granted at a service attended by more than 250 people.

The Ontario native, who flew to England especially for the unveiling, said: "It was an absolutely wonderful occasion and everyone was just so happy with the day. It couldn't have gone better.

"It finally gave all the families the chance to grieve for those who died, but there was also a lot of joy as it was a celebration of their lives as well.

"I think I've left a little piece of my heart behind in Medway. It's such a wonderful place with so many wonderful people, and I will always have a connection with the area from now on."

The Fireman's Wedding display was a popular annual attraction at Gillingham Park, and would culminate every year with the fire brigade 'rescuing' volunteers from a three-storey structure cobbled together with wooden beams for the frame and tarpaulin for the walls.



TRIBUTE: Mayor of Medway Ted Baker with Lori Oschefski at the memorial

It was rigged to catch fire but on the day of the tragedy the flammable liquids were triggered too early and spectators were confronted with the horror of many of the children and adults burning or jumping to their deaths.

One of those who perished in the blaze was 12-year-old Navy cadet Eric Cheeseman, whom Mrs Oschefski later discovered was the nephew of her grandfather William Cheeseman.

She said: "I remember sitting there looking at Eric's picture when I was researching my family tree, and it really impacted upon me how precious those lives really were and how tragic and terrible this accident was.

"It seemed inconceivable to me that there was no memorial to mark what had happened and that so many people didn't even know about it.

"The main reason I petitioned for change was the sheer sense of injustice that these victims were literally becoming unrecognised and forgotten."

The new memorial is of a child and firefighter standing back-to-back, either side of an inscribed list of all 15 people killed in the blaze.

This newspaper has backed Mrs Oschefski's campaign since it began last summer and she said she could not have done it without us.

She added: "I can't thank KoS enough. Right from the start you were there to back the campaign all the way. You played a critical role in getting this memorial in place."

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HERITAGE

Scenic Railway listed status gets upgraded

THE Scenic Railway at Dreamland in Margate, has had its listing upgraded from Grade II to Grade II* on the advice of English Heritage.

The ride, built in 1920, is the oldest surviving roller coaster in Britain and is among the five oldest in the world.

Despite historic and recent fire damage, the integrity of the design remains.

Emily Gee of English Heritage said: "Its age, rarity and design interest mean that listing in Grade II* is fully warranted."

English Heritage is working with the site owner, the Dreamland Trust and Thanet District Council to secure a long-term future for the Dreamland site and restoration of the Railway.

POLICE

Officers' Day of Action lobbying Westminster

SIXTY-SEVEN off-duty officers from Kent Police joined a Day of Action against government cuts on Wednesday.

The protest included an open meeting and lobbying event iin Westminster.

Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon, said: "Officers are concerned about their pensions and pay. In a recent survey 98 per cent of officers in Kent said morale had fallen. Is this government soft on crime – tough on the fighters of crime?"

TRANSPORT

Kent among worst for rush-hour emissions

GREEN campaigners are pushing for people to consider eco-friendly ways to get to work after research revealed the extent of Kent's rush-hour emissions.

The county was exposed as one of the UK's worst offenders, with the average person adding more carbon emissions to the environment on the trek to and from work than those living in London.

A study by Imperial College London for EDF Energy found residents contributed 2.37kg of Co2 per person per day – 1.02kg more than in the capital – to the staggering 29.7 million tonnes released across Britain every year.

The average journey time of people using their cars to get to work in Kent was 25 minutes.

EDF's Team Green Britain are pushing for residents to ditch cars and instead try walking, cycling, or car sharing for longer journeys.

EDF spokesman Gareth Wynn, said: "We believe the take up of low-carbon transport is crucial to Britain meeting its carbon reduction targets and it is an important part of helping to reduce Kent's carbon emissions."

Nationally, the amount of emissions released during rush hour annually equates to more than 280,000 lorries covering 100,000km.

Kent County Council acts as a launch pad for car-sharing schemes, helping individuals and companies get involved or start initiatives.

A KCC spokesman said: "Setting up a journey share scheme will help to reduce Co2 emissions and pollution; provide a cheap way for staff to get to the office; cut local traffic and congestion levels; reduce pressure on car parking; improve relations with the local community; and widen recruitment catchment area for staff."

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TOURISM

The darling buds of a

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



A TOURIST trail celebrating Kent's strong connection with the Darling Buds of May could be the 'perfick' way to boost visitor numbers to the county.

The hit 1990s comedy-drama, which starred Sir David Jason and helped launch the career of Hollywood star Catherine Zeta-Jones, was filmed in and around the village of Pluckley, near Ashford.

And to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the show's first episode, tourism bosses have set up a trail of filming locations which they hope will also persuade visitors to explore the best of Kent's local food and drink.

These include the Larkin family home at Buss Farm in Bethersden, and their local, the Black Horse at Pluckley.

Richard Bates – son of Darling Buds author HE Bates and executive producer of the wildly popular ITV show – told KoS he was pleased to be associated with the initiative.

He said: "I think it's a brilliant idea because compared to some other counties, Kent perhaps doesn't get as much funding as it really needs to promote itself as a tourist destination.

"I think using the Darling Buds of May, which is still held in great affection by the public, is an excellent way to publicise local venues and producers, farms and vineyards."

HE Bates, who lived in Little Chart, came up with the idea for the Darling Buds of May book in the mid 1930s when he and his wife stopped off at a village store as they drove across the Downs towards Sittingbourne.

While the author waited in the car, a couple with a large brood of children burst out of the shop licking ice-creams and clutching sweets before piling into the back of a big blue truck. It was they who were the inspiration for the Larkin family.

"A condition of the television contract was that the series would be made largely in Kent," said Mr Bates, who now lives in Wye. "I wouldn't have allowed it to have been set anywhere else.

"I think all the cast enjoyed their time here enormously. We stayed in local hotels and often ate in local restaurants at the end of a day's filming, so I'm sure they all have happy memories.

"Pam Ferris (Ma Larkin) actually lives in Kent now, and it's very likely she moved here because of her experiences on the Darling Buds of May."

The tourist trail has been put together by Kent County Council, Produced in Kent, and Visit Kent.

In addition to filming locations from the show, it also includes attractions like agricultural museums, working windmills, and the Kent and East Sussex Railway.

KCC cabinet member for customer and communities, Cllr Mike Hill, said: "We have had tremendous success in the past capturing film tourism with projects like the Other Boleyn Girl movie map.

"This lovely series has provided an opportunity to go a step further and generate interest in

CRIME

Man, 43, jailed for having sex with 14-year-old girl

A MIDDLE-AGED man who groomed a 14-year-old girl before persuading her to run away with him, has been jailed for four years.

Having had a sexual relationship with the "vulnerable young girl" for months, he was finally caught after police sent a specially-trained team to snare him after he convinced the teenager to leave her parents and flee with him to London.

Glyn James Thomas, 43, of Ypres Drive, Kemsley – who before that lived in Faversham for many years – pleaded guilty to three counts of "engaging in penetrative sexual activity" with the schoolgirl.

Maidstone Crown Court heard how Thomas groomed the girl for months.

Judge Carey told Thomas during sentencing: "The victim has been substantially affected by these offences; she is a vulnerable young girl with her own problems and difficulties.

"You abused her in the most fundamental way possible, when you should have assisted her, you instead abused her.

"Although you are attempting to present that you are remorseful, I am doubtful of this."

Det Con John Milham of the Public Protection Unit at Swale, who investigated the case, said: "Glyn Thomas deliberately set out to groom this very vulnerable child for the sole purpose of sexually abusing her, abuse that continued for several months.

"I would like to pay tribute to the child victim in this case who was able to find the courage to provide police with sufficient evidence to convict Thomas."

Thomas has been given an indefinite Sexual Offences Prevention Order, he is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults, and must complete a sex offender treatment programme while in prison.

new tourism venture



Pictures: ITV

local produce and visitor attractions, as well as filming locations.

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CRUISES

Paddle steamer gives a wide berth to county

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE world's last remaining sea-going paddle steamer is to stop running trips from Dover due to a row over harbour fees.

Instead the famous Waverley, which holds up to 500 passengers, will sail empty from Portsmouth straight to London, missing out the South East.

Prevously the boat would travel to Dover port and stop overnight before picking up passengers and moving on to Tower Bridge.

Waverley Excursions Ltd (WEL), which runs as a charity, blamed Dover Harbour Board (DHB) for imposing a "significant" increase in charges to use the harbour.

But port bosses said although there was a rise on some charges, they were in line with Retail Price Index and the charity enjoyed discounted rates.

WEL general manager Kathleen O'Neill said previous costs



HISTORIC: The paddle steamer will no longer visit Dover port

of £2,000 for using the harbour once or twice a year had rocketed and the paddle-steamer, which has been visiting Dover for more than 20 years, would no longer be stopping there.

"The level of charges is now so high that it is no longer economically viable for our charity to offer these cruises," she said.

The Waverley was built in 1947 and underwent a major restoration in 2003.

Every year the boat made two trips along the south coast to Dover and on to London.

Ms O'Neill said: "The people of Dover and Kent want to sail aboard the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world. They want to view the White Cliffs of Dover from the ship. We want to be able to provide this."

The harbour board said it was disappointed to hear of the charity's plans to stop visits to the port, but stressed DHB had supported WEL's by offering substantial discounts on the normal published tariffs.

The spokeswoman said in May, 2010, DHB wrote to WEL with a copy of port charges stating the charity would still "enjoy privileged terms" but that there were increases on some standard port charges.

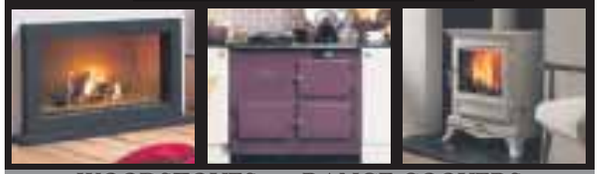
She added: "We are saddened that such goodwill shown exclusively to WEL in recognition of its charitable status can be thrown back after they made full use of the port's facilities without query regarding cost."

■ **See www.yourdover.co.uk for all the news and sport.**





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LORD LIEUTENANT

The Queen's man in Kent bids

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE future of the monarchy is in good hands with William and Kate at the helm, says the outgoing Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

Allan Willett, who retires next month from his role as the Queen's representative in the county, told KoS the Royal Family's newest married couple had given Britain a "morale boost" and were loved around the world.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived back in the UK this week following a successful nine-day trip to Canada and the west coast of the US, marking their first official tour since an estimated global television audience of 300 million watched their wedding back in April.

Mr Willett said: "There is no question the nation and the Commonwealth would be the poorer without the Royal family.

"You only have to think back to the Royal wedding to recall the wonderful pageantry that gave us all such a morale boost and was followed with huge interest from all around the world.

"People say no-one can stage events like this as well as the British, and there's no doubt we are very good at it.

"It was wonderful to see two young people deeply in love, and now already performing public duties with great warmth and style. The future of the monarchy is in very good hands."

Mr Willett is a philanthropist and former international businessman, having made his fortune from the packaging and plastics machinery industry.



ROYAL DUTIES: Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett with the Queen



us farewell

He was appointed Lord Lieutenant in 2002, and since that time he and his wife Anne have carried out hundreds of public engagements throughout the county, including about 100 royal visits.

But all that will come to an end next month when he retires on the day of his 75th birthday.

"I feel honoured to have represented Her Majesty the Queen in Kent," he said. "We are privileged to live in this beautiful county, and I am proud of what the Lieutenancy is doing to serve all our communities and celebrate all that is good about Kent.

"I would best like to be remembered as someone who modernised the Lieutenancy, making it relevant for the 21st century. Our most important campaigns have been encouraging greater public support for our Armed Forces and their families, celebrating youth achievement and fostering community volunteering."

Mr Willett, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer in May last year, will be replaced as Lord Lieutenant by his current right-hand man Viscount De L'Isle.

The stated aims of the Lieutenancy of Kent are to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride; to give a sense of stability; to recognise achievements, success and excellence; and to promote service to others.

Mr Willett said: "My farewell message is simple. As the frontline county, always in the vanguard of the nation, Kent has an extraordinary history.

"But however proud of it we are, the past is the past. The really important thing is the future, and we should go forward together, proud of our past and confident of our future."





LOOKING FORWARD: Allan Willett is confident in the future of the monarchy in the hands of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, newlyweds Kate and William

ENTERTAINMENT

Castle comes under siege

TALENTED youngsters from Medway are ready to storm the Castle Concerts stage during the Under Siege concert on Sunday, July 17.

The free event gives some of the area's most gifted young performers the chance to showcase their talents on the Castle Concerts stage.

This year the Under Siege performers will follow in the footsteps of Squeeze, Peter Andre, N-Dubz and the Royal Philharmonic Proms Orchestra at Rochester Castle.

All the youngsters will perform on the same full-sized stage, with professional equipment and the support of an experienced crew.

There are 18 acts in the line-up this year, covering everything from alternative rock to musical theatre.

Gates open at noon and the concert is due to take place from 1-3.30pm.

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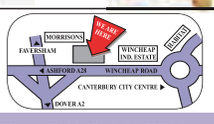
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MEMORIAL

Battle of Britain hero's poems to help fund education centre

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A VETERAN Spitfire pilot is donating the proceeds of his new poetry book to help fund a Battle of Britain education centre.

Flight Lieutenant William Walker, 97, who survived being shot down over the Channel in 1940, was among those who attended the annual memorial flyover at Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, on Sunday.

The memorial site is already home to a replica Spitfire and Hurricane as well as an engraved list of all those who took part in the Battle of Britain, and there are now plans to build a learning centre known as The Wing there, too.

Flt Lt Walker said: "I write poems for pleasure and as a mental stimulant and had never envisaged that a day might come when they might be used to help a cause so close to my heart.

"When the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust decided to print a book of my verses, I realised it was an opportunity to repay, in some measure, a great debt of gratitude for many wonderful years of kindness and help.

"By donating the copyright of all my verses to the trust I hope it will prove to be helpful in raising revenue towards the



important learning centre project, and for maintaining our memorial site."

Flt Lt Walker was part of a squadron intercepting German bombers at Dover and Dungeness on August 26, 1940, but during the fight his aircraft was badly damaged and he received a bullet in his right ankle.

He baled out and landed in the Channel close to a shipwreck, which he clung onto until being rescued by a fishing boat and eventually transported to Ramsgate Hospital. Nurses at the hospital, which had been badly damaged by bombing, realised they could not deal with Flt Lt Walker's wound so the next day he was taken by ambulance to the RAF hospital at Halton in Buckinghamshire.

Following the war the brave pilot worked his way up to the position of chairman at the now-defunct Ind Coope brewery, a job from which he retired 38 years ago.

Flt Lt Walker said: "My annual pilgrimage to Capel-le-Ferne to attend our memorial service and see our memorial wall gives me the opportunity to see again the names of so many friends who are constantly in my thoughts, and it is comforting to know they will always be remembered and thought of by those who visit the site.

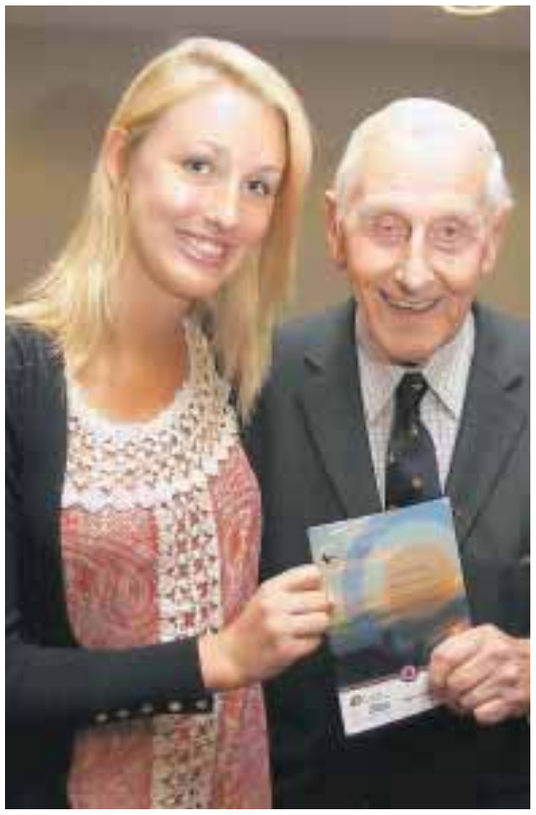
"Sadly the number of veterans able to attend the service has diminished alarmingly over the last few years, but it remains a nostalgic pleasure for the few who can still make it."

The planned learning centre at the memorial includes an exhibition space and a classroom with both internal and external viewing areas, as well as views across the Channel towards France.

A number of "significant contributions" have already been made to the appeal fund, but the trust says a "substantial" six-figure sum still needs to be raised.

Visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org to order a copy of Flt Lt Walker's book.

■ **See www.yourshepway.co.uk for all the latest news and sport headlines.**



GENEROUS GIFT: Flt Lt William Walker with his granddaughter Chloe and his poetry book; left is the statue at Capel-le-Ferne



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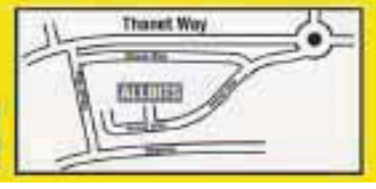
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COURT

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Magistrates ordered her to pay a fine of £175, costs of £150 and a victim surcharge of £15.

CRIME

'KCC' phone scam warning

KENT Trading Standards is warning of fraudulent automated phone calls claiming to be from Kent County Council.

The recorded voice states they have an urgent message for a Mr Peter Barnsley, and asks you choose from various options.

Officials say the call is a scam, and is not from KCC.

They warn that by choosing an option, you could be charged for a premium rate call.

ROADS

An answer to misery of Operation Stack could be agreed by Christmas

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SOLUTION which could end years of suffering from Operation Stack will be decided before the end of this year.

MPs, council chiefs, business leaders and Kent Police's Chief Constable Ian Learmonth met to discuss how to solve problems caused when Operation Stack is implemented during problems at the Port of Dover or Channel Tunnel.

The traffic system is brought in usually when crossings are delayed or cancelled resulting in hundreds of lorries queuing on the M20 between junctions 11 at Hythe and 12 at Cheriton, with other traffic diverted along the A20.

When the port is under severe pressure, junctions eight to nine, Maidstone to Ashford, are closed and lorries parked on the motorway.

Speaking ahead of the high-level summit on Friday, Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said the matter had never been satisfactorily addressed and there needed to be "serious and workable" solutions.

The two proposals discussed involved a scaled-down version of the Aldington lorry park plan, championed by Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter, and a new plan introduced by Mr Collins, based on the idea of a network of smaller lorry sites along the M20 and in Dover.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Carter said his "common sense" idea had been welcomed.

"The lorry park plan is the most common sense solution. It's a more minimalist scheme than the original idea. Lorries would come off at Sellindge and go under an existing tunnel into old land which is next to an electricity substation and can't really be seen," he said.

Cllr Carter said the park, which would cost between £15m-20m, would hold 3,000 lorries and have facilities for drivers.

His original scheme, which came under fire from Aldington residents, was floated at the beginning of 2008 and involved building a junction and slip road, with costs soaring to as much as £50m.

Cllr Carter said with the new, cheaper, proposal financial contributions could come from the police – which spent £2m in 2008 coping with Operation Stack and using officers that would otherwise be on the frontline – and the Highways Agency.

But Mr Collins put forward a counter-proposal at the meeting involving a smaller network of lorry parks by the M20, including one at Dover.



MOTORWAY MADNESS: Hundreds of lorries are left standed on parts of the M20 when Stack is implemented, causing traffic chaos for thousand of motorists

He said he had a meeting with ministers in the autumn, where he will propose developments easing problems associated with Operation Stack should be part of national infrastructure – to help overcome planning laws – by arguing that Kent bears the brunt for the rest of the country.

Kent Police Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said it was crucial a solution was found and quickly.

A further meeting will be held later this year with hopes of a final decision.

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OPINION

Disabled do have our support

Maria Miller, the minister for disability, work and pensions, responds to the recent welfare reform protests and explains how the changes work

IF you or someone in your family is disabled then you may have concerns about what welfare reform means for you.

After the Hardest Hit march in London, I want to reassure people reading this in Kent that this government is absolutely committed to supporting disabled people.

We are more determined then ever to help them live independently and we spend more than £40 billion a year on disabled people and services – including £12bn on Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

But we also need to face the fact that the current benefit system is not always reaching those who need it most. It can't be right, for instance, that more people get £51.40 per week, the higher rate mobility, of DLA for drug and alcohol abuse than for blindness.

DLA has to work better to reach the disabled people who need it. That's why we will replace it with a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to help ensure people get the right levels of support. I want to be clear that this will continue to be a non means-tested cash benefit, paid in and out of work and will continue to help disabled people with the mobility and care costs they incur.

If you've been through a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and are on IB or ESA then you may feel anxious about the new assessment for PIP and I understand your concerns. The assessment that we inherited didn't work as it should and some disabled people have felt let down. We have worked hard to put this right and have made a series of changes to improve it.

But we need to have a proper system of assessment for PIP so that we can be sure people are getting the money they should be. The way DLA works at the moment means disabled people lose out on around £200m a year in underpayments.

The new payment will be awarded following a more transparent assessment which we are developing with the help of disability organisations. Our proposals also include reassessments to ensure everyone receives the correct amount as their needs change.

But our reforms are to more than just benefits. It can't be right that a lot of disabled people still feel their choices are a life on benefits or a job that doesn't make use of their skills. When I talk to disabled people what I hear is that they want us to help level the playing field so that there is real opportunity and choice to get the jobs they want or the support they need.

That's why we will carry on spending on programmes like Access to Work. This helps disabled people with things like travel costs to work or specialist equipment or adaptations to their work place. We spend around £100m a year on Access to Work – helping more people than ever before get into and stay in work.



People should not get more for alcohol abuse than for being blind

We won't allow the mistakes of the past to be repeated. The Work Choice programme introduced last October is expected to support more severely disabled people into work each year than its predecessor programmes and the Work Programme will provide more tailored employment support.

Attitudes to disability and the expectations of disabled people have changed massively in the last 40 years since the Disabled Person's Act and we need to make sure that both benefits and employment support reflect that.

I know change is worrying and people want to be sure the Government is listening. I will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations and listen to their concerns.

KOS COMMENT

Enjoy your weekend of fun to remember

THE weekend thousands of people have been waiting for is here, with the much-anticipated Open golf championship and return of the ever-popular Kent County Show.

The roads might be a pain, but with the buzz of excitement surrounding The Open and fun-filled programme for the county show, don't let traffic spoil the fun. All that's needed now is for the rain to stay away and the sun to arrive to guarantee the perfect Kent weekend.

Thank you Mr Willett, you'll be sorely missed

AFTER almost 10 years representing the Queen in this county, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett has hung up his hat.

During his time in the honoured post, Mr Willett did a great job launching successful campaigns celebrating youth achievement and pushing for public support for the Armed Forces.

His passion will be missed.

We would like to wish him good health and all the best for the future.

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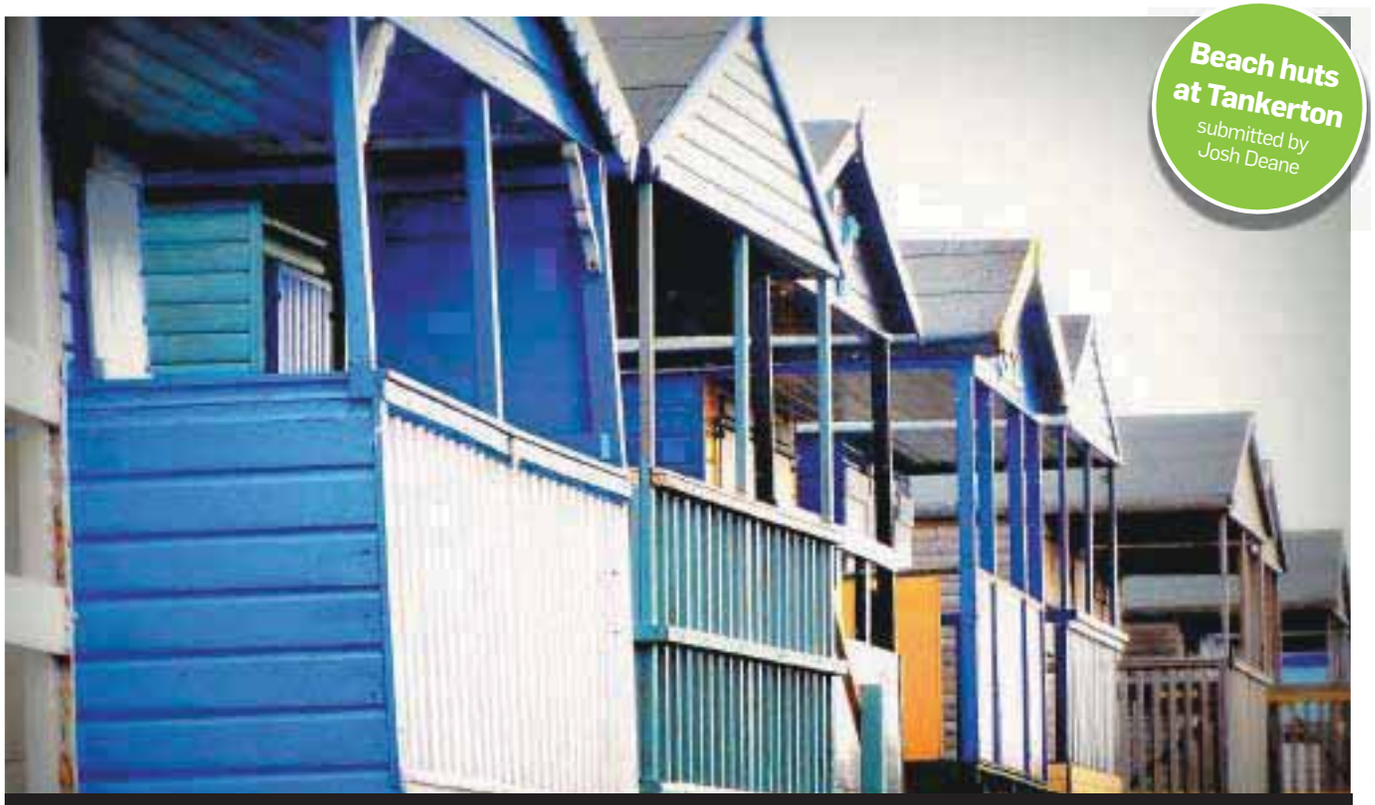
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Beach huts at Tankerton
submitted by Josh Deane

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Stone did not fit the crime

APROPOS the item on page 20 of KoS July 10, I wonder if you have accessed the website you quote for Michael Stone.

This is nothing to do with the Michael Stone who is serving time for a murder he insists he did not commit, but merely a blurb for a hopeful author (whose grammar and spelling are not correct).

Mr Aidiniantz may believe that Michael Stone did not perpetrate the crime of which he was accused, but his website does not support this.

I also found that the police case for conviction was not strong enough and Michael Stone, though a thoroughly reprehensible character, does not deserve to be blamed and punished for something he did not do.

However, the case was so shocking that it seems everyone was happy for someone/anyone to take the blame while the possibility that a murderer was still on the loose was completely overlooked.

The activities of Levi Bellfield lead me to think him a much more probable suspect despite the fact that Kent Police have abandoned the case.

Sonia Jackson, by email

Teachers are out of touch

READING Cllr Ian Driver's comments concerning the lack of support given by the Government to the striking teachers last week (KoS Letters), what did he expect?

The Government will not allow workers at this present time, or any other, to hold the country to ransom.

This country is already in an awful state created by the Labour government. If we do not all tighten our belts, and I mean all, including the teachers, it will take years to get us back on our feet.

Strikes never improve any situation. Teachers are lucky in the respect they have been warned of a lower pension, many have not had this luxury.

Anyway, what makes teachers think they should be treated so different to other hard-working jobs such as nurses, carers another or even hairdressers?

Teachers work shorter hours with far more weeks holiday than a lot of jobs and their training is no longer than many other jobs I know. They are already treated so different to other qualified professions.

They should just think themselves lucky they have a job plus a pension. Though it is now a little smaller, at least they have one – think of the thousands who lost their pensions.

Now the teachers are making all working families pay for childminders while they strike. The teachers should be made to pay for these expenses while the schools are closed.

Isn't the country in a bad enough state without people causing more problems.

If I was in Government I would sack the lot of them.

Mark Penny, Ramsgate

Flying in the face of facts

THERE'S an error in regard to your reporting of the Biggin Hill application for extended hours.

Specifically you state that the airport is looking at an extra two hours on weekdays.

This is wrong; the current allowed opening hours are 6.30am to 10pm with restrictions on arrivals in the first hour and departures in the last.

The application for weekdays is to lift the restrictions to allow arrivals in the first hour with limits set on the numbers and departures in the last hour.

Also, I'm surprised that no mention is being made during these stories of the Atkins report and the forecast extra traffic expected for the Games.

Jon Wallace, by email

PM not a man of the people

I AM not sure, but I don't think we have ever had a Prime Minister as out of touch with the people as David Cameron.

Because many thousands of people object to Mr Cameron giving their money to every corner of the world except this country.

Surely he must realise he is pushing us further and further into debt but, of course, that won't effect him. He just doesn't seem to realise the awful state some people are getting into here, and as he has always had all that he needs and much more he just doesn't understand and never will.

Having a millionaire running this country has been an abject failure and it is about time his own MPs realised that and reined him in.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

MPs killed our democracy

FIRSTLY, this week Ed Miliband made a mockery of his party, Parliament and worst of all, the voters, by having a pseudo investigation into why they lost the last election.

Nothing to do with MPs like Jacqui Smith taking expenses, deliberately encouraging mass immigration stretching our economy, labour market and essential services, or getting us into more than a trillion pounds in debt then?

After each by-election defeat NuLabour said, 'Now we're really going to listen', but as usual were too busy talking at us, to take any notice. They are so deluded they are not fit to govern.

Whatever did they think the investigation would come up with?

Secondly this week, we had the Tories calling for more people to volunteer as Conservative councillors.

A good job if you want to become a cipher, toeing the party line, doing as you're told and being told how to vote.

Being able to talk voluminously about democracy, while ignoring the electorate and their express wishes, is essential. Brass neck required!

After all this, our masters have the gall to talk of voter apathy and pretend they don't know why our political system has gone so wrong.

It's our MPs who have killed democracy.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Zero carbon is vital for us all

THE Campaign Against Climate Change is sponsoring a Zero Carbon Britain day on Saturday. Everyone can participate. Kent Green Party supports this initiative and suggests the public take action to reduce their carbon emissions to help the UK effort.

Here are some examples of useful actions:

- Support Kent's farmers' markets, to increase local employment and cut fuel wasted moving food large distances: **www.kfma.org.uk**
- Increase insulation in lofts
- Do not use air-conditioning, open the windows
- Plant fruit trees in your garden and install some raised beds to grow vegetables
- Sell the second car your home possesses and make do with one
- Make some of your regular car journeys on foot or by bicycle
- Invest in solar water heating or solar panels for your home
- Change to holidays by train and ferry, not plane.

There is enormous potential for homes, businesses and public sector organisations to save money by a vigorous effort to cut carbon emissions.

Why pay out when you can save by cutting carbon?

Stuart Jeffery, chair of Kent Green Party

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

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It's worth checking out this tax demand

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



Q MY DAUGHTER received a letter from her tax office, saying she owed £593. I read your report about the reader who was excused paying tax arrears, so I wrote to her tax office.
HM Revenue & Customs replied, saying it dealt within permitted time limits with information she "or a relevant third party" supplied, so the tax is still due.
My argument is that my daughter had no idea she had not been taxed properly. How would the normal man or woman in the street know, unless they understood the tax system?

A Of COURSE, we all trust the Pay As You Earn system to get it more or less right. We submit a tax return declaring our income and claiming whatever allowances we can, and then the taxman tells our employer how much tax to collect from our pay. Once a year, the employer gives HMRC figures for every employees' pay and tax, and those figures are checked.
This is how it has been done for almost 70 years, and it is impossible, unreasonable and unfair to expect the public to understand the ins and outs of regulations that change every time the Chancellor gets to his feet and delivers a budget.
Even HMRC staff keep up to date with only the bits of the system that involve their jobs. All I can tell from the information you sent me is that your daughter changed jobs in October, 2009, and by April, 2010, she had underpaid tax by £593. The taxman spotted this in December, 2010 and notified her.
Legally, the taxman is in the right. Even under the rules that allow him to write off arrears that have arisen because he himself overlooked some vital bit of information, he still has 12 months to demand the tax – and the clock does not even start ticking on those 12 months until the end of the tax year in which he received the information.
Only HMRC can explain how and why this tax debt arose. But it seems highly likely that the 'trigger' for the demand was the end-of-year pay and tax figures filed by her new employer in April, 2010, which makes the December, 2010, demand valid.
Your daughter should still demand an explanation, though. If her employer simply got the sums wrong, then perhaps that employer might like to chip in towards the bill.

Q I HAVE read that compensation is available for people in pension schemes run by Equitable Life. Can you shed any light on this? I was with Equitable Life for 20 years and have a much-reduced pension.

A THE Government finally picked up the bill following the near collapse of Equitable Life in 2000. Compensation cheques started to be issued by the Treasury on June 30. The worst-hit 37,000 investors had with-profits policies that were turned into annuities – pensions for life. They will share £620 million in annual payments for as long as they live. Another 945,000 savers share £775m in one-off payments. But not every policyholder will benefit.
More than 400,000 lost nothing, the Treasury says. And officials add that there is no need to claim. The company's records are intact, so if you are due a payment it will arrive automatically.

Q I HAVE £10,000 in a two-year fixed-rate bond that is ending. It yields 4pc. Where would be the best place for my money now? I have used my Isa allowance and I have no computer, so no access to internet accounts.

A IF YOU can invest for four years, Secure Trust Bank (08451 117 092) offers 4.4pc interest on £1,000 upwards. You can operate the account by telephone or post. But move quickly as this offer will close soon. Or to stick to a two-year term, see if you can use a computer belonging to a friend or at a library. The Post Office offers 3.96pc interest on its two-year online bond (www2.postoffice.co.uk/finance/savings-investments/online-bond).

Q I HAVE been paying off debts following my marriage breakdown. One company has threatened to take a charge on my home. Does this mean it could force me to sell?

A A CHARGE just means the debt is recorded at the Land Registry, and if you sell your home, the company is entitled to repayment of its debt. It does not mean the company can force you to sell.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. Neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Customers in rush to save on their bills

THERE has been a surge in the number of people looking to change their energy contracts in the face of massive price rises announced by British Gas.
British Gas was the second of the so called Big Six energy suppliers to announce large gas and electricity price rises. It will raise prices by an average of 18pc for gas and 16pc for electricity from mid-August.
In June, Scottish Power announced a 19pc increase in the cost of gas and 10pc in electricity.
The British Gas announcement has seen a 2,000pc jump in visits to comparison site Confused.com as customers rush to save money, find the best deals and avoid the price hikes.
Confused chief marketing officer Mike Hoban said: "At a time when utility suppliers are reporting record profits and massive price rises, consumers are voting with their laptops and looking for the cheaper deals."
And Confused.com's energy analyst Lisa Greenfield added: "Struggling households will be dismayed by this news, and as British Gas is the largest supplier in the UK, many families will be hit hard."
In order to reduce bills, switching contracts is one of the top methods.
Using direct debit payments, installing cavity wall and loft insulation, using an energy monitor and making sure lights are switched off when not being used, are also among the top pieces of advice.
The Big Six have often raised prices at about the same time, so the other four may well follow the lead of Scottish Power and British Gas in the coming months.



DON'T PAY THE PRICE: Switching contracts is one of the top ways to reduce energy bills

Decision to retain cheques welcomed

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

THE decision to keep cheques alive and well beyond 2018, was roundly welcomed across the financial and charity industry this week.
Although the use of the cheque has declined massively as a percentage in recent years, there were still more than a billion issued in 2010.
So it was hardly surprising that a plan to possibly ditch cheques completely from 2018 had caused widespread consternation among individuals, charities, pressure groups and financial commentators.
But the Payments Council has now revealed the target for possible closure of the cheque clearing system in seven years' time has been cancelled.
Cheques will continue to be available to customers "for as long as they are needed", said the organisation.
Richard North, chairman of the Payments Council, said: "It's in the DNA of the Payments Council to consult and listen to all those people who actually make payments and use cheques.
"Listening to more than 600 stakeholder groups, working with the banks and following our appearance before the Treasury Select Committee, we have concluded we should reassure customers that the cheque is staying.
"Over the last two years we have learnt a great deal about what is important to our many stakeholders, and we are really grateful to all of those groups and individuals who took the time to talk to us and help us reach this decision.
"We will use what we've learnt to keep improving existing systems, as well as introducing innovation, so that customers benefit from 21st century ways to pay. Innovation must be at the heart of what we do."
Nationwide Building Society had described the 2018 scrapping deadline as "arbitrary".
Gary Follis, Nationwide's head of policy, said: "This is a victory for the consumer and a common sense approach.
"Scrapping cheques would have had serious ramifications, not only for the elderly and most vulnerable in society, but also for small businesses and charities that rely on this payment method."
Andrew Tyrie MP, chairman of the Treasury select committee, said that the announcement was "better late than never". He added: "We reopened the inquiry into the future of cheques because of deep public concern.
"We received hundreds of letters and emails from members of the public, charities and small businesses, who were overwhelmingly against plans to abolish the cheque.
"The decision to get rid of cheques was taken without having thought through the consequences for millions of people. That was unacceptable. At last the Payments Council is concentrating on the right thing: making the existing cheque system faster and cheaper to operate."
Banks must now stop discouraging customers from using cheques, added Mr Tyrie.
Which? chief executive Peter Vicary-Smith said the decision was "great news for the millions of people who regularly use cheques".
He added: "Whilst it may be more convenient for the banks to process other forms of payment, it's not so easy for their customers.
"To announce a timetable for the abolition of cheques before any suitable alternatives had been put in place was never a good idea. This is a victory for common sense."

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

SOUTHERN Water has become the latest victim of the recession, having its credit rating downgraded and also facing the challenge of plugging a £24 million revenue gap.
The utilities firm has suffered as a result of lower-than-expected growth across the South East and may now look to industry regulator Ofwat to help it bail itself out of a perilous position.
But in a statement, Ofwat has suggested that Southern Water's shareholders, as opposed to its customers, should shoulder the multi-million-pound losses.

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County council bids for £40m state handout

Simon Robinson
simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council chiefs have submitted a £40 million east Kent funding application to the Government.

Council chiefs claimed the Expansion East Kent (ExEK) bid would create 5,000 new jobs, grow 500 east Kent businesses, lever £320 million of private-sector investment and unlock private-sector debt and equity finance if it was successful in gaining Regional Growth Fund (RGF) cash.

The authority's application outlines a number of aims, including: stimulating business to creating jobs for the poorly-skilled, young and long-term unemployed; growing an entrepreneurial economy; improving east Kent's accessibility to London and continental Europe; and retaining scientific research and development skills in east Kent.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "Responding directly to business need, our RGF bid will place a particular emphasis on jobs in life science to retain a world-class scientific research-and-development base in east Kent and to develop the area as a leading location for renewable energy, clean-tech and environmental technologies.



BID: KCC bosses hopes to secure cash from the Government's funding pot

"Our RGF and Enterprise Zone bids represent a further phase of task force activity following the announcement in June that Pfizer would retain 350 jobs in Sandwich.

"ExEK now proposes an independent fund to invest in firms seeking to expand their businesses: from large investors to SMEs and business starts and spin-outs. It will provide finance to business for capital investment and support groups of businesses to invest in business-critical infrastructure, including rail improvements.

"The task force will continue to leave no stone unturned in identifying new and fresh opportunities for the Pfizer site and in building a stronger east Kent economy."

KCC's RGF bid has been submitted in the second round of the Government's £1.4 billion funding pot, with this window worth £900 million.

Bids will be considered by RGF chairman Michael Heseltine and his team using a checklist including criteria such as private-sector job-creation, deliverability and commercial leverage.

Council bosses will hope Heseltine looks more favourably on the South East's bids during this round of funding applications – with Kent failing to secure a single penny of RGF funding in the first round.

Furthermore, Chelmsford-based e2v Technologies (UK) Ltd was the South East and East of England's sole successful bid.

The majority of the Government's £450 million wedge was given to northern England.

NETWORKING

People's Port bid on lunch agenda

DOVER People's Port chairman Neil Wiggins will give the main speech at a business networking lunch.

Mr Wiggins will give an update on his group's bid to the Government to buy the Port of Dover.

The campaign has received support from ferry companies, the Unite trade union, Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke and Forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn.

A spokesman for the Thanet & East Kent and Dover District chambers of commerce said: "The Dover People's Port campaign promises to be one of the most significant developments in the history of British port management, with significant implications for Ramsgate, Whitstable, Belfast and other publicly-owned ports."

The People's Port is going head to head with a rival Dover Harbour Board campaign to manage the port.

The lunch takes place at the County Hotel, Dover, on Friday, July 29.

Tickets cost £15; phone 01843 609289 for more information.



IN PLACE: One of two giant substations

RENEWABLES

Offshore windfarm passes milestone

THE London Array offshore wind farm has taken a step closer to completion, with the project's two giant substations now in place.

The substations were winched into position with a floating crane.

The substations will transform the electricity generated by the wind turbines before exporting it, via four 50km export cables, to the new onshore substation at Cleve Hill, near Faversham, before being fed into the National Grid network.

London Array is being built some 20km off the coasts of Kent and Essex. The wind farm will be installed on a 245km^2 site and be built in two phases: phase one will cover 100km^2 and include 175 turbines with a combined capacity of 630MW.

The consortium – Dong Energy, E.ON and Masdar – plans to complete construction on the first phase by the end of 2012. If approved, the second phase will add enough capacity to bring the total to 1,000MW.

LEGISLATION

New focus for red-tape challenge

THE Government's regulation-stripping Red Tape Challenge is to turn its attention to the manufacturing industry.

SMEs working in the industry are being encouraged to highlight any unnecessary rules that hinder growth as well as positive pieces of legislation they encounter.

Government will use the feedback to decide which regulations should stay, which should be simplified, and which should be removed. If ministers want to keep burdensome regulations, they will have to make a strong case for them to stay.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service's South East programme manager David Caddle said Kent firms should get involved with the campaign.

"The Red Tape Challenge really is a rare opportunity for manufacturers to have their say on the regulations that affect them.

"That's why MAS South East is urging Kent manufacturers to take part and tell the Government what changes they would like to see."

ACQUISITION

Big interest in discount store

ADMINISTRATORS acting on behalf of discount department store TJ Hughes are in detailed discussions with more than 30 potential buyers.

Tom Jack and Simon Allport, from Ernst & Young, said retail consultants GA Europe had been appointed to advise on and assist the company, which has a branch in Maidstone, with the sale of both stock and stores.

A statement read: "We are already in discussions with more than 30 interested parties and are encouraged by the strong level of interest in the business and its portfolio of 57 stores.

"However, there are significant stock levels and we therefore must ensure we are also pursuing a strategy to trade this stock through the business, in case we cannot find buyers for all of the company's stores and employees. Promotional activity will therefore commence immediately in all TJ Hughes stores."

TJ Hughes employs more than 4,000 staff.

BUY-OUT

Company survives 'frantic' buy-out

McBRIDES Accountants were forced to practise what they preach after coming back from the brink of collapse.

The Sidcup firm, which offers advice to clients in areas such as business sales, mergers, acquisitions and management buy-outs, gained first-hand experience in each of these areas during a rocky six-year relationship with accounting and business-advice firm Vantis.

The companies merged in 2004 but split in June 2010 when Vantis went into administration with debts of more than £50 million.

That led to McBrides directors' decision to buy back their Kent office, return to their original trading name and go it alone once again.

Managing partner Nick Paterno said: "The buy-out was a frantic and exciting experience and it has armed us with a wealth of personal and practical knowledge.

"We're not just speaking theoretically nowadays, but from personal experience."

RETAIL

Shop is here to Entertain you

THE Entertainer toy company is set to open a Bluewater branch.

The firm, which offers a range of toys, games and gifts, will move into the superstore in October.

The Entertainer founder Gary Grant said: "There is nowhere better for a flagship store than Bluewater. It is a household name that attracts millions of people every year from a very large area.

"More than that, however, as brands, we share a very similar ethos, both being committed to providing a unique experience."

Retail leasing head Guy Thomas said: "Guest feedback indicated that toys and games was an area in which we could broaden our offer, and there is nobody better to do that that The Entertainer."

The Entertainer is the 17th brand to have committed to Bluewater this year, and follows the recent announcements that Ted Baker and Karen Millen are to upsize. WH Smith is also relocating to allow Forever 21 to open a store in spring 2012.

Water firm downgraded after shortfall in income

SOUTHERN Water's credit rating has been downgraded after the company posted a year-end revenue shortfall of £24 million.

Moody's Corporation nudged the utilities firm's corporate family rating from Baa1 to Baa2 – just two notches above the speculative 'junk' grade.

In a statement explaining its decision, the organisation said: "The downgrade was prompted by the weakness of Southern Water's cash-flow generation and the additional risks embedded within the company as a result of its hedging activity.

"The outlook assigned to the ratings is negative."

Southern Water blamed the drop on lower-than-expected development across the region.

A spokesman said the company was considering approaching industry regulator Ofwat for permission to raise prices in a bid to close the shortfall.

"We are facing a shortfall in our income, compared with that which was predicted when our prices were set with Ofwat in 2009," it said. "In 2010-11 this was £24 million.

"The main reason for this is that growth in the South East is far lower than forecast, as a result of the recession. For example, following the decline in house-building, we are currently providing a sewerage service to 29,000 fewer properties than predicted.



OPTIONS: Southern Water may apply to raise prices in a bid to beat the shortfall

"We are now reviewing the financing of our business to decide the best way to address this.

"One option is to apply for an interim price review, but we have made no decision and it is too early to say what action we may or may not take.

"We need to talk with Ofwat, the Consumer Council for Water and, not least, customers before making any decision.

"The long-term interests of customers will be at the heart of any action we do take."

If the company decides to approach Ofwat for an interim price review – in an attempt to reduce the shortfall by charging its 2.3 million water and 4.4 million sewerage customers higher rates – it is almost certain to be met with fierce opposition.

An Ofwat spokesman said: "Southern needs to take responsibility for its business and deliver for its customers."

With regard to the ratings slump, the spokesman said: "We expect companies to maintain strong investment grade ratings. For the industry as a whole, because of investment requirements of billions of pounds, BBB is not the right place for the sector.

"We set price limits that allow efficient, well-run companies to finance their functions and maintain a strong investment grade rating.

"If the company's investment rating slips further, then we have mechanisms in place to make sure customers are protected."

Southern Water is the seventh largest of 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. It serves Kent, East and West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Since October 2007, its parent company has been Greensands Holdings Limited, which is in turn owned by a consortium of specialist funds, including IIF International SW UK Investments Limited and UBS Global Asset Management UK Ltd.



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Plan for the future to be ready to face the rising costs of care

PROPOSED reforms of the care system will still leave pensioners facing a hefty annual expense, a financial planner has warned.

Furley Page's Ruth Dolan welcomed economist Andrew Dilnot's standout recommendation to Government – that care costs be capped at £35,000, ensuring those who require residential care would not have to spend more than 30 per cent of their assets paying for it – but warned the suggested shake-up would still leave pensioners facing huge bills over an indefinite period.

"The cap will not include things like food, heating and general living expenses, which account for around half of a care-home bill," she said. "And of course, even with a cap in place, you'd still have to find up to £35,000 to pay for the care itself."

Dilnot, who is chairman of the Commission On Funding Of Care And Support, also recommended a separate 'bed and board' limit of £10,000 per year, with the state assisting with the cost above that level. Hence the basic cost of living in a residential care home for 10 years could hit £100,000.



Dolan said sums like this made it important now more than ever for workers to start planning for their futures.

"Whether or not the Government acts on the commission's findings, it's important that you plan and prepare for old age," she said. "Life expectancy is increasing – the number of people living beyond 85 is expected to double in 10 years – so you can't afford to just leave your savings and investments where they are and hope that they will be enough.

"There are options you have to consider and choices to be made about the type of care you receive and where. For example, the care home you choose may have higher fees, particularly in the South, which will eat into your assets even faster and could mean your family having to assist with top-up payments.

"If your assets have been depleted, you may even find yourself funded by the local authority, which could have a significant impact on choice.

"It's important you keep control of your finances and find an adviser specialising in funding care fees. The Society Of Later Life Advisers can point you in the right direction."

Phone Ruth Dolan on 01227 763939, or email her at rd@furleypage.co.uk.

Hand Picked business shows company's got staying power

By Simon Robinson
simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

HOTELIER Julia Hands is celebrating her 10th year in business by looking back at the company's journey to date, as well as expanding her empire in the near future.

The Hand Picked Hotels chairman and chief executive set up her headquarters in Sevenoaks in 2001, buying the first 14 hotels in the same year. She added a further three properties in 2008.

Each hotel was chosen to reflect Hands's Hand Picked brand, with its emphasis on informality and a relaxed, unstuffy atmosphere.

The brand has gone on to pick up a string of awards, including the AA Hotel Group Of The Year title.

Hands, who was awarded an MBE for services to the hospitality industry in 2007, said: "We have created and developed an award-winning brand while retaining the individual history and character of each hotel and the tradition of hospitality, yet with the latest spa treatments, wi-fi and informality.

"During the past 10 years, we have built a loyal and ever-expanding following of Hand Picked guests who love staying in our hotels, backed by a first-class team across our hotels and at our headquarters in Sevenoaks. We are focusing on growing Hand Picked and are keen to build the collection to 20 hotels. We are looking for properties in strategic locations with the history and character to become part of Hand Picked."



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: Julia Hands wants to expand her hotels business

Hands has spent more than £94 million restoring and developing her 17 hotels in the past decade, creating new spa/health-club facilities, conference facilities, the latest technology and additional bedrooms to stimulate growth in conferences and meetings, leisure, weddings and spa breaks.

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Apprenticeship drive to boost youth jobs

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council has drawn up a four-year plan aimed at boosting the number of apprentices and increasing awareness of the schemes among young people.

Just 3,500 businesses out of about 50,000 in the county currently employ an apprentice, with just six per cent of young people signed up to a scheme.

And with the 18-24-year-old age group making up nearly a third of all unemployment in Kent, the county council has decided to take action with a new strategy that includes business incentives and better awareness in schools.

Cllr Mike Hill, cabinet member for customer and communities, said: "We know apprenticeships can make a real difference to the careers of young people and the prosperity of local businesses, but we have to recognise and remove the obstacles preventing some people from discovering those benefits.

"We've set ourselves some ambitious targets but we are serious about making apprenticeships work in Kent."

As part of the new strategy KCC has introduced a requirement in all supplier contracts worth more than £1 million, in that at least one new apprenticeship must be offered per £1m spent on labour.

The first company signed up to the arrangement is Enterprise, which recently won a five-year contract to maintain Kent's roads. It means about 12 members of the workforce will be on a formal apprenticeship programme, and bosses say it is their intention to exceed this figure where practical.

The council says it also plans to create a 'one-stop shop' for employers, offering advice and support to help them overcome the obstacles they face in taking on an apprentice.

Meanwhile, the authority will encourage firms to appoint apprentices in line with the academic year so school-leavers can go straight into employment. It will also work directly with schools to better promote apprenticeships as a career choice.

Chris Parish is an electrial engineer at Sittingbourne-based company Knauf.

He said: "Protecting our future commercial success so we can continue to provide employment for local people means we need to avoid future skills gaps in the local workforce.

"Apprenticeships help future-proof the needs of employers, and we'd strongly recommend others take advantage of the business benefits work-related learning can bring."

Apprenticeships last between one and four years with a salary of £105 per week, and result in a formal qualification and valuable experience of the workplace.

Before embarking on an apprenticeship, 14-16-year-olds have the opportunity to complete a vocational course and gain an industry-backed qualification. To date, more than 8,500 youngsters have already done so.

Visit the jobs and careers section at www.kent.gov.uk.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



MENTOR: Young people aged 18-24 make up 30 per cent of unemployment in Kent

Learning is key at Coke bottling site

COCA-COLA Enterprises has opened a new £750,000 education centre at its site in Sidcup, Bexley.

The investment is part of the bottling company's drive to introduce young people to the world of business and enterprise, with the centre due to host more than 200 visits per year from more than 4,000 secondary school, college and university students.

Last week's launch was marked with an on-site open day attended by local councillors, businessmen, education groups and teachers.

Managing director Simon Baldry said: "We are committed to playing a positive role in the communities in which we operate, and one of the best ways to achieve this is by opening up our factory doors to support the work of educators.

"Our education centre offers students valuable insight into the world of business, allowing them to make connections between what they learn in the classroom and real-life modern manufacturing practices.

"Modules taught at the centre link directly to the national curriculum, and we have built excellent relationships with schools across the country."

Coca-Cola Enterprises' education centres, of which there are now four in the UK, contain purpose-built interactive classrooms run by registered teachers.

The one in Sidcup will play a key role in supplying soft drinks to the Olympic park in Stratford next year.

Subjects covered include business studies, science, ICT, engineering, and design and technology.

Old Bexley and Sidcup Conservative MP James Brokenshire was among the guests who attended the launch event.

He said: "Coca-Cola Enterprises' Sidcup facility plays a significant role in our community, and investing in this cutting edge education centre further demonstrates their commitment to both the area and also the manufacturing industry.

"The education centre will provide students from local schools and colleges with an insight into how industry operates, and the potential career opportunities manufacturing offers."

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Canterbury named safest city for students by top university guide

THE Complete University Guide has named Canterbury the safest city for students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Compiled from official police data, the 2012 guide aims to give a clear picture of the crime rates in the 25 towns and cities outside London with two or more universities.

Canterbury is home to the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, and also has a campus of the University for the Creative Arts and Canterbury College.

The city's ranking is based on the cumulative rate of crimes most relevant to students – burglary, robbery and assault.

Bernard Kingston, founder of the Complete University Guide, said: "While the quality of tuition and the prospects for employment after graduation are key elements in choosing a university course, it is important not to overlook other aspects of the environment in which the student will be living for three or more years."

Professor Alex Hughes, provice-chancellor at the University of Kent, added: "We very much welcome this news as the safety and wellbeing of all our students on and off campus is extremely important to us."

Prof Hughes said the university also operates its own campus security service and provides night-time walking security escorts and free personal alarms to students.

Wind farm is inspiration for competition

STUDENTS from across the county battled it out to design a wind farm and win a trip to Denmark.

The challenge was part of Kent County Council's masterclass programme, which gives young people the chance to find out more about a range of vocational careers.

The youngsters had an imaginary budget of £6 million to design a small wind farm in the space of just four days, with teams from across the county competing against one another at Thanet College in Broadstairs and the Swale Skills Centre in Sittingbourne.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said: "We are very proud of the vocational opportunities that now exist for young people in Kent.

"Wind energy will increasingly be a source of employment in the years to come as we are the country of choice for this industry.

"We have worked hard with the industry to make sure our young people are equipped with the right skills in the right place to take advantage of this.

"We want to be able to train the next generation of engineers, designers and renewable energy entrepreneurs."

The competition was organised by KCC with Dong Energy, Windpower Renewable Solutions and London Array – the wind farm 12 miles off the Kent coast in the Thames Estuary.

Phase one of the development is underway and involves installing 175 turbines, two offshore substations and a new onshore substation at Cleve Hill, near Faversham. It will generate up to 630MW of power – enough for about 480,000 homes.



TEAM: Oakwood Grammar School students

Project director Richard Rigg said: "We are delighted to be offering students the opportunity to learn more about wind energy.

"Offshore wind is a growing source of clean, renewable energy, and we are pleased to help students learn more about the industry and to encourage them to consider it as a possible future career."

Driving course launched ahead of Government theory test reforms

ADULT Education College Bexley has launched a new driving theory course ahead of changes to the way in which motorists are tested.

From September, the Driving Standards Agency will stop publishing the questions and answers to its theory test due to learners memorising them rather than understanding why they are important.

The Adult Education College is one of many centres up and down the country that will now offer training to help people prepare for the driving examination.

Road safety minister Mike Penning said: "The driving theory test should help prepare drivers for real life on the road as good driving is not just about vehicle-handling skills but also about having the knowledge and understanding of safe driving theory.

"No longer publishing these questions and answers will mean successful candidates will have to understand the theory rather than simply memorising answers.

"I believe this – along with the other changes we are making to the driving test regime – will lead to better drivers and safer roads."

Contact Adult Education College Bexley on 020 8303 2541 or visit www.adultedbexley.org for more information about the new 20-hour course, which can be taken over three days or 10 weeks of evening classes.



'EARN AS YOU LEARN' APPRENTICESHIPS

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SALARY SCALE: £95 PER WEEK FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK

Thanet College is delighted to offer exciting opportunities to 'earn as you learn' through 9 Apprenticeship posts covering a range of work areas such as:

- Business Administration
- Marketing
- Registry
- Reception Customer Service
- Divisional Administration

The programme will result in a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification providing an excellent gateway into the world of employment for 16 to 18 year olds.

For further details and an application form please visit Training Solutions on www.thanet.ac.uk or phone 01843 605052

We value the diversity of our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

Closing Date for applications: 18 July 2011

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Adams Day Services Pembury

comprises a dedicated team which provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to enjoy meaningful activities, stimulating projects and training for life skills. As a result of further reorganisation we require:

Day Services Support Worker (with music skills)

37.5 hours a week on a flexible basis – Monday to Friday. As part of the role, the successful candidate will be able to lead music sessions and assist in the Sensory Room. Hourly rate £6.56 but enhancements considered for those with appropriate experience and qualifications. Experience of working with people with complex needs and who present challenging behaviours is required.

Horticultural Support Worker

Horticultural / gardening experience required. 37.5 hours a week on a flexible basis – Monday to Friday. Hourly rate £6.56 but enhancements considered for those with appropriate experience and qualifications. Experience of working with people with complex needs and who present challenging behaviours is required.

Community Support Workers – MOST (Paddock Wood)

Full current driving licence and access to a vehicle for work purposes is essential. A mileage allowance is payable. Hourly rate from £7.30 - £7.70 dependent on experience and qualifications (includes 90p per hour mobility enhancement).

Application forms for all positions above can be obtained from the HR Dept on 01892 822168
or reception@pepenbury.info or download from www.pepenbury.info

All positions are subject to enhanced clearance from the CRB & ISA Regulars
We offer all staff good working conditions and excellent training opportunities
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Bethany Lodge Care Home, Eastbridge Rd, Dymchurch
Requires:

REGISTERED NURSE

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Please contact: Paul Mills 01303 872289 for more information and an application form
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To apply please telephone 01732 743901

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe
zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk
01233 619530

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credocare

Supervising Social Worker

To supervise the work of a case file of foster carers on behalf of the agency

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS
The candidate must have DipSW or equivalent and registered with GSCC. Must have good communication and assessment skills and experience of working with looked after children and supervising foster carers. Also, to be able to prepare reports and child and foster carer assessments. Must be able to drive and have use of a car and to have basic IT skills.

Salary Scale: £30K to £35K depending on experience or qualifications
Full time 37.5 hours per week
Benefits: Car allowance, enhancement for Out of Hours, Work Mobile Phone and Laptop
Work base: Head Office Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent
Satellite Office Tonbridge, Kent

Fostering Manager Designate

Supervision of Social Work and support staff

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS
The candidate must have CQSW or DipSW and two years post qualifying experience. Must also be registered with GSCC. Also good communication and assessment skills and experience of supervising social work staff and working with looked after children. Must also be able to prepare reports. Full Driving Licence and have good IT skills.

Salary Scale: £28K to £45K depending on experience or qualifications
Full time 37.5 hours per week
Benefits: Car allowance, enhancement for Out of Hours
Work base: Head Office Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent

For both positions, please contact
David Burton 01797 322226 d.burton@credocare.co.uk or
June Stone 01797 322226 j.stone@credocare.co.uk

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

Vehicle Technician

We are looking to recruit an experienced and qualified Vehicle Technician to join our Service Team. To be considered for the role you must be apprentice trained and qualified to NVQ level 3 in Light Vehicle Mechanical, Maintenance & Repair or GNVQ equivalent. The ideal candidate will possess the ability to tackle the wide range of work that enters our workshop. You must be a team player with good communication skills and hold a full, clean driving licence. Most importantly, you must be committed to providing the very best in customer care. Porsche training will be given.

Receptionist (part-time)

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and confident receptionist to work at our Porsche Centre in Tonbridge. As the first point of contact, you will need to have an excellent telephone manner, be of smart appearance and enjoy talking to customers and making them feel welcome. The ideal candidate must have outstanding communication, organisation and interpersonal skills with an excellent attention to detail and a flexible approach to work. The position is for Saturday 9am – 5pm.

If you would like to develop your career further with Porsche Centre Tonbridge please send your CV and cover letter by 22 July 2011 to Sharon Mallin at sharon.mallin@porschetonbridge.co.uk or Porsche Centre Tonbridge, Brook Farm, Five Oak Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0QN.

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Key responsibility will be for the day-to-day administration of our busy office. Some previous office experience would be preferred but is not essential. The successful applicant will be conversant with Microsoft Office & Excel.

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Contact: **Stella Fitzgerald, Office Manager on 01732 740088**
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MotorSport Vision is looking for a bright, hardworking individual to join its Retail Sales department based at the Brands Hatch circuit in Kent.

You will be responsible for printing all activity vouchers and race meeting tickets, and uploading event data onto the ENTA booking system.

Highly organised, you will have the ability to work under your own initiative, have a smart, professional appearance and a friendly outgoing manner.

A minimum of two good A-levels or equivalent are required, along with an excellent telephone manner, written and spoken English and a sound working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. Enthusiasm and knowledge of motorsport will be an advantage, but not essential.

There will be a requirement to work some weekends to meet the needs of the business, especially major race meetings.

Please apply in writing, including a current CV and salary expectations, to:

Katie Dickens
Group Human Resources Officer
MotorSport Vision Centre, Brands Hatch Circuit, Fawkham, Longfield Kent DA3 8NG

or email katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk

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Contact:
Miss S Spratley,
Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road,
Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: **samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk**
Tel: **01303 277161 ext 2218**
Fax: **01303 279342**

Closing Date:
22nd July 2011
Interview Dates:
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email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 18 July 2011

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For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052.

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 20th July 2011

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MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN

TO WORK AS PART OF THE IN-HOUSE MAINTENANCE TEAM IN SUPPORTING THE COLLEGES ROOM REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME, AND CARRYING OUT PPM MAINTENANCE DUTIES ON ALL COLLEGE EQUIPMENT.

THIS WILL BE ACROSS ALL COLLEGE SYSTEMS AND WILL REQUIRE A METHODICAL APPROACH TO TASKS, WHILE STILL PRIORITISING WORKLOADS.

SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040
FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 20th July 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

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CUSTOMER CONTACT OFFICERS

Salary £16,041 to £21,642 (pro rata for part time)

5xFull time and 1xPart time (25 hours)

We are looking for enthusiastic, customer-focused individuals with excellent customer service skills to work within the Customer Contact Team. If you want to be a part of Shepway District Council's drive to improve its service to customers this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

Working within our Customer Contact Team, we have a number of roles dealing with the administration and payment of Housing and Council Tax Benefit and the administration and collection of Council Tax. Your duties will include dealing with customers both face-to-face and over the telephone, processing work at the first point of contact wherever possible. The legislation is very complex and subject to almost continual change and this is one factor that makes the work so demanding, but equally very rewarding. You will be given intensive training to develop your knowledge in this challenging role.

As the public face of the Council, the service you provide will directly affect what our local residents think about us.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity and a commitment for continuous improvement, a passion for customer service and a flexible approach are fundamental requirements of the role.

The post requires the following:

- 5 GCSE's at grade C or above, including Maths and English, or relevant experience.
- The ability to analyse and retain information.
- Good communication skills.
- Good basic office skills
- A commitment to delivering a customer-focused service

The closing date for completed application forms is:

Wednesday 20th July 2011

Interview date: To be confirmed

For application details, please visit www.shepway.gov.uk or to request an application pack, please contact email **hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk** or phone **01304 872799**

Folkestone



We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

FACILITIES TEAM LEADER

37 hours per week, all year
Salary: £19,659 - £23,040

To support the Head of Facilities in the running of the colleges Facilities / goods in Departments.

This role will provide guidance and information to staff regarding everyday operations and assist in the execution of college's facilities duties.

This is very much, a hands on role and can be very demanding at times, working closely with the college maintenance and support teams to ensure that continuity of service is maintained across the Facilities division.

DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE

25 HOURS PER WEEK, 38 WEEKS PER YEAR
SALARY: £8,167 - £8,786

To support the Divisional administrator in the day to day running of the divisional administration office.

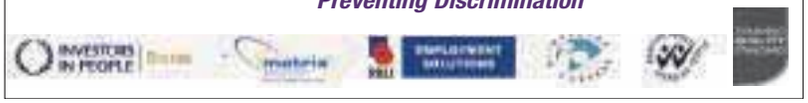
Closing date: 27 July 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: PAMC002

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination





We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME AREA MANAGER CONSTRUCTION

37 hours per week, all year
Salary: £33,917 - £38,358

To be responsible for managing a programme area and to promote very high standards in a positive and supportive culture that aspires to be outstanding.

PROGRAMME LEADER ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

37 hours per week, all year
Salary: £29,413 - £34,817

To deliver high quality teaching and learning, lead the effective co-ordination and development of programmes and take a lead role in the planning and delivery of specified programmes within the Programme Area.

LECTURER IN BRICKWORK

Salary: £25,589 - £30,205

To raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Construction Area.

Closing date: 27 July 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: PAMC001

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination



PROW - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mrs. B. Field under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Tuesday 30th August 2011. Please quote reference VGA630. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 1.3 acres (0.5 hectares) in size forming part of Culverstone Green playing fields, situated adjacent to Mountfield Close and the Culverstone Community Centre at Culverstone Green.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months although it is expected the work will take an estimated 8 weeks.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Dungeness Road, Kerton Road and Public Footpath HL8.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Denne Tel: 01303 814534 (ext 205)

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by the Shepway Environment and Community Network under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Tuesday 30th August 2011. Please quote reference VGA629. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 3 acres (1.2 hectares) in size, known locally as Fisherman's Beach, situated between Public Footpath HB82 at the Hythe Ranges and the junction of West Parade and St. Leonard's Road.

PROW - District of Shepway

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH HL9 (PART) IN THE PARISH OF LYDD

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH HL9 (PART))

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984,
SECTION 14(1)
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath HL9 (part) from Dungeness Road to the junction with Public Footpath HL8 (NGR TR 070 201) from 1st August 2011.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 17th July 2011**

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

Do not gamble on people seeing your public notices, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Canterbury

HARWICH STREET, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of crane lifts and a new waste water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Harwich Street, Whitstable, on or after 18 July 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The initial closure is planned for Monday 18 July 2011 for 1 day, as signposted on site.

The next planned closure is Tuesday 16 August 2011 for 1 day, as signposted.

A further closure is scheduled from 23 August 2011 for 2 weeks for a crane lift followed by a new wastewater connection.

The road will be closed outside number 19A. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Vale Road and Kent Street.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Forge Lane (westbound only) Saddleton Road, Grimshill Road and Harwich Street.

WESTWOOD ROAD, KINGSTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of duct installation works in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Westwood Road, Kingston, on or after 1 August 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Westwood Cottage.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Pett Bottom Road and Turk's Hill.

The alternative route is via Pett Bottom Road, Woodgate and Pheasants Hall Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 18th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to take place 24th July 2011 and last 1 day between 08.30 – 11.30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Parsonage Lane, Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, A225 Princes Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Darenth Hill, Darenth
Extent: Between Parsonagle Lane and Green Street Green Road
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, A225 Princes Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Roman Villa Road, Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Shrubbery Road, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: East Hill, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Between Shrubbery Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Skinny Lane, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Rabbits Road, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Canada Farm Road, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Between Rabbits Road and Green Street Green Road
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: Gills Road, Horton Kirby and South Darenth
Extent: Entire Length
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road Name: St Margarets Road, Darenth
Extent: At its junction with Green Street Green Road
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane, Darenth Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Dartford Half Marathon.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

BRANCH STREET, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the use of a mobile crane to complete works on the former Nat West Bank building, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Branch Street, Dover, on or after 1 August 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Bridge Street and Peter Street.

There is no alternative route. The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Peter Street will be suspended to allow access.

EAST CLIFF, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of duct installation works in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on East Cliff, Dover, on or after 5 August 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between numbers 48 & 54.

There is no alternative route.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of East Cliff to allow access up to the point of closure.

RICHBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, RICHBOROUGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance and replacement works on the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic at Richborough Road Level Crossing, Richborough.

It is planned that the road will be closed from 0.30 am on Sunday 7 August 2011 until 4.00 am on 8 August 2011.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich By-pass, A257 Sandwich Road, Cooper Street Drove and Richborough Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

MILTON HALL ROAD, GRAVESEND -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Milton Hall Road, Gravesend between Pine Avenue and number 25 Milton Hall Road.

The Order will become effective on 1st August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pine Avenue, Old Road East and Milton Avenue.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage improvement works.

PARK AVENUE, NORTHFLEET -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Park Avenue, Northfleet outside the Dover Road Community Primary School.

The Order will become effective on 1st August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 2nd August 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Park Avenue, Vale Road, Perry Street and Victoria Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate delivery of a modular double classroom to Dover Road Community Primary School.

PRIESTWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Priestwood Road, Meopham outside property 'Famescott'.

The Order will become effective on 1st August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Horns Oak Road and David Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate UK Power Network works.

THE STREET, COBHAM -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on The Street, Cobham between Sole Street and Battle Street.

The Order will become effective on 18th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 23rd July 2011 and last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Jeskyns Road, Henhurst Road, Valley Drive, Marlings Way, Vigilant Way, Thong Lane and Halfpence Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON THE FOOTWAY OR VERGE)

(VARIATION NO 1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1 (1) and (2), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2) and 4 and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on the Footway or Highway Verge on the following lengths of road:-

MAIDSTONE

Poplar Grove On both sides from the junction with A20 London Road to the junction with Hazelwood Drive

Maxwell Drive Entire length both sides

The Order was Sealed on 14th July 2011 and will come into force on 15th July 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

BOTSOM LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Botsom Lane, West Kingsdown for its entire length (physical road closure will be between properties Paladin and Rosine).

The Order will become effective on 18th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 1 day.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Maplescombe Lane, Donkey Lane, A20 Main Road/Gorse Hill and A20 London Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate tree felling.

CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley between Steep Hill and Ash Road.

The Order will become effective on 1st August 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 5 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ash Road, Hartley Road, Main Road, Fawkham Road and Castle Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate kerbing to prevent flooding.

PARK LANE, SEAL -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Park Lane, Seal between Grove Road and Bitchet Green Road.

The Order will become effective on 18th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 4 months.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Grove Road, Hall Lane, Stone Street Road, Bitchet Green Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of 1554M of water pipe.

WATERY LANE AND HONEYPOT LANE, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Sevenoaks between the Railway Bridge and its junction with Honeypot Lane. The Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular eastbound traffic on Honeypot Lane, Kemsing Noah's Ark to Watery Lane.

The Order will become effective on 18th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 6 weeks.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

Clockwise - Honeypot Lane, Noahs Ark, St Edith's Road, High Street, Heaverham Road and Watery Lane.

Anti-Clockwise - Watery Lane, Heaverham Road, High Street, West End and Childsbridge Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair to Railway Bridge.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CHURCH APPROACH & CHURCH LANE, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Approach & Church Lane, New Romney, on or after 1 August 2011 for up to 5 weeks, as shown below.

The roads will be closed in rolling sections from High Street to the junction with Wiles Avenue.

CHURCH APPROACH will be closed from 1 August 2011 for 1 week.

The alternative route is west on High Street, and Church Road

CHURCH LANE will be closed in phases from the junction with Church Road to the junction with Wiles Avenue

From 8 August for approximately 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Church Road, The Churchlands, Marsh Crescent and Wiles Avenue.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

BROADLEY ROAD, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:-

BROADLEY ROAD Prohibition of driving of motor vehicles, from the junction with Dane Valley Road to the junction with St Peters Footpath.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD, and at the Thanet Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD; or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Monday 8 August 2011

CHARLOTTE STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations for a new electricity supply to repair a fault, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Charlotte Street, Broadstairs, on or after 18 July 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between junctions with High Street and John Street.

The alternative route is via B2052 High Street, A255 Queen's Road, York Avenue, Oscar Road, Victoria Parade and John Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(MANSTON ROAD, THANET) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 82(2), 83(2) and 84(1)(a) and (2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to that Act:

The effect of the order extends the 30 MPH speed limit in Manston Road, Thanet from the existing 30 MPH limit to the point 10 metres north-east of the boundary line of Rosemary Nursery.

This order was made on 14 July 2011 and will come into force on 1 September 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirements of such enabling Act or any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(B2063 GROVE HILL ROAD & MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC & WAITING ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Grove Hill Road, from Grove Hill Gardens to Mount Pleasant Road on or after Sunday 24th July 2011 when required for a period of up to 6 weeks. There will be 24hr no parking between Grove Hill Gardens and Sutherland Road enforced for the duration of this order. Traffic will also be prohibited on Mount Pleasant Road at the roundabout, junction with Vale Road and Grove Hill Road on or after Sunday 24th July 2011 for 5 weeks (Sunday working only) or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Vale Road, A26 London Road, A264 Church Road/Crescent Road/Calverley Road, B2063 Prospect Road/Grove Hill Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway reconditioning, resurfacing and drainage works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Tony Carreck on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tunbridge Wells & Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VALE ROAD, STATION APPROACH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS & BOB DUNN WAY, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF 24 HOUR NO PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by southbound traffic on Vale Road after 20:00hrs and to suspend the 24 hour no parking on Station Approach on or Thursday 21st July 2011 when required for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed and traffic will be prohibited on Bob Dunn Way from Burnham Road to Marsh Street on or after Friday 5th August 2011 between 21:00hrs and 05:00hrs for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Vale Road is via High Street, A26 London Road and For Bob Dunn Way via Burnham Road, Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Home Gardens, A226 East Hill/The Brent/London Road, Cotton Lane.

The Film Office, Kent County Council apologise for any inconvenience caused which is due to filming taking place. Should you require any further information, the contact is Gabrielle Lindemann on 08458 247 800.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

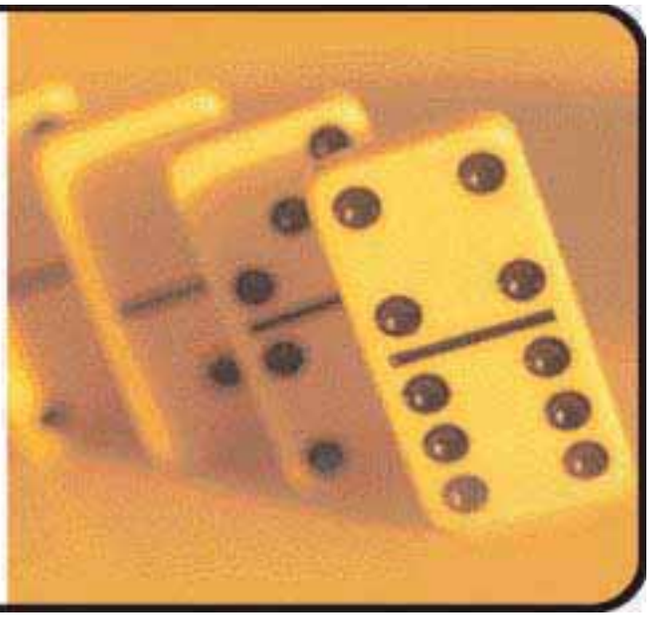
Dated 16th July 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Do not gamble on people seeing your public notices, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01890/FULYork Cottage Major Yorks Road, Broadwater- Conversion of archive storage (previously garage) and construction of a pitched roof in order to create a 1-bedroom holiday let to the rear and side (LB) (CA)

11/01892/LBC York Cottage Major Yorks Road, Broadwater- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of archive storage (previously garage) and construction of a pitched roof in order to create a 1-bedroom holiday let to the rear and side (LB)

11/01894/LBC Dental Practice Golding House, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst- Listed Building Consent - Removal of lantern rooflight and upgrade of roof covering (LB)

11/01900/LBC TN4 29 Mount Ephraim, Culverden- Listed Building Consent: Relocate and improve existing ground floor kitchen to lower ground floor. Form new bar counter in existing kitchen area (LB)

11/01855/FUL Village Life The Stores, Goudhurst- Removal of redundant outbuildings and construction of a four bedroom dwelling (LB) (CA)

11/01883/HOUSE St Cuthberts Lodge Stream Lane, Hawkhurst- Extension and alterations to existing garage (LB) (CA)

11/01732/FULWeald House 10A High Street, Pantiles & St Marks- Change of use from Business Use (A2) to residential use and installation of new kitchen and bathroom (LB) (CA)

11/01733/LBC Weald House 10A High Street, Pantiles & St Marks- Listed Building Consent - Change of use from Business Use (A2) to residential use and installation of new kitchen and bathroom (LB)

11/01906/HOUSE 7 Vale Road Southborough, Southborough North- First floor extension (CA)

((DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 16 July 2011

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0827/S - LAND AT, LOVE LANE, HEADCORN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN27 9HJ - Erection of a 3 (no) polytunnels, potting shed, access track and hardstanding. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1005/N - ST FAITHS CHURCH, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Replacement of tiles to the lower roof slope of the south elevation with slates. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1010/S - YMCA SPORTS CENTRE, MELROSE CLOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6ZE - Amendments to Community Centre and Car Park approved under MA/03/1147/02 (application for approval of reserved matters of siting, means of access, design, external appearance & landscaping pursuant to conditions 1, 2 & 3 of outline permission MA/03/1147 for a replacement community centre, junior football pitch, 83 dwellings, associated parking, access road & landscaping) being amendments to entrance canopy & entrance feature, revised position of a first floor window to south elevation & revisions to parking layout including knee guard rail and dwarf wall, and lighting to car parking areas (resubmission of MA/10/1126). **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1017/N - KENT MUSIC SCHOOL, ASTLEY HOUSE, HASTINGS ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 7SG - Variation of Condition 12 (in respect of car parking) of outline planning permission MA/10/0594 to read 'there shall be a minimum of 1.2 spaces per dwelling' rather than the current requirement that reads 'there shall be a minimum of 1.5 spaces per dwelling.' **Reason: 6**

MA/11/1018/N - 42 - 44, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - An application for listed building consent for creation of an opening in the first floor for installation of new hoists, and removal of an existing first floor rear window and replacement with a single outward opening door. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1031/S - HAZELDENE, DEAN STREET, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PS - Erection of a replacement two storey dwelling and detached double garage with the demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1043/N - DRYING LOFT, TURKEY COURT TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - Insertion of additional windows and glazed panel in rear (east) elevation and replacement of doors with window panel in side (south) elevation. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1044/N - DRYING LOFT, TURKEY COURT TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - Listed building consent for insertion of additional windows and glazed panel in rear (East) elevation and replacement of doors with window panel in side (south) elevation. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **31st July 2011,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated**: 17th July 2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/DA/0286/2011 – Proposed development at Pinden Quarry, Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent, DA2 8EB

Pinden Ltd are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the conversion of existing workshop/office building to provide extended office space, including changes to existing fenestration; construction of a replacement workshop extension to the north of the existing building; and provision of additional vehicle parking spaces.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

DO/11/570 – Proposed development at Former Corporation Yard, Western Road, Deal, Kent, CT14 6PJ

E.H. Churley is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the erection of a light industrial building for the storage and sorting of non-ferrous metals.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

KCC/TM/0293/2011 – Proposed development at Wrotham School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 7RD

Wrotham School and Kent County Council Education Learning and Skills are applying to Kent County Council as County Planning Authority for planning permission for a **revised proposal** for replacement of temporary (Horsa Huts) teaching accommodation with the provision of a 2 storey building (originally granted planning permission under application TM/10/181) including a reduction in the floor space and consequential changes to foot print, floor plans, elevations and external works including re-arrangement of staff car parking.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 17 July 2011

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advdertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

AWOYERA
Jubril and Lola are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Ruby Ibitola Ayomikun Awoyera, who was born at 6.42 pm on the 1st July, 2011, and weighed 8lb 5oz.

BROWN
Debbie and Paul Brown are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Toby Daniel Brown on 28th June, 2011. Big brother Josh is thrilled at Toby's arrival. Special thanks to Charlene Garrett and Lauren Wall from Maidstone Ambulance Service who delivered baby safely.

CONCEIÇÃO
Amanda and Antonio are proud to announce the birth of their little baby boy, and to introduce Lara to her baby brother Ethan, born 13th March, 2011, at 0707am weighing 8lb 14oz at Ashford's William Harvey Hospital.

GRANT
Welcome to the world Cherry Maureen Grant, a beautiful baby daughter for Honey and Steve.

OWENS
Maxwell Shane Owens born on 3rd July, 2011, weighing 6lb 1oz. Son to Claire Oram and Shane Owens and brother to Dylan, in Ashford.

RENIHAN BURKE
May and Kieran of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Beatrix Niamh Renihan Burke, born at home on 15th June, 2011, weighing 8lb 14oz.

ROBERTS
Kayleigh and Zaine of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their son Freddie James Roberts, born on 27th June, 2011, at QEQM Hospital, Margate, weighing 8lb and half ounce. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

SKERRETT
Noah Charles Skerrett born Friday 1st July, 2011, at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury. Son to Joanna and David. You are our little miracle and we love you very much.

WATSON
Shane and Louise celebrate the birth of their son Jacob Shane Watson, who was born on 26th June, 2011. Lots of love and cuddles from Big Sister Alisha. xxx

WILKINSON
Gavin and Kelly and big sister Miley are delighted to annouce the arrival of their daughter Georgia Brooke Wilkinson, who was born on the 3rd June, 2011 - the same day as her Raa Raa.

DEATHS

MURPHY
James Murphy died peacefully on 11th July, 2011. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 10.15am on 19th July, 2011. Dearly loved husband, father, grandad and great grandad - he will be in our hearts forever. Family flowers only but donations may be made to The Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall, Aylesford.

WARNER
Kathleen Ellen Warner sadly passed away on 3rd July, 2011. Lovely mum and nan who will be missed dearly and never forgotten. Forever in our hearts until we meet again. xxxxx

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Julian Blackborrow trading as Linden Automotive, of Leigh Green Industrial Estate, Appledore Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7DE, is applying for a licence to use: Leigh Green Industrial Estate, Appledore Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7DE, as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Barnyard, Gore Farm, Oak Lane, Upchurch**

Applicant: **Miss Santosh Mall**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hadlow Manor Hotel, Goose Green, Hadlow**

Applicant: **Miss Natalie Hayward**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **East Quay Shellfish, The East Quay, The Harbour, Whitstable**

Applicant: **Mr Jamie Robb**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X



WILD FOR WILDLIFE

Get close to a range of wonderful UK animals on a visit to Wildwood

SEE PAGE 55



FESTIVAL FINALE

Exhibition focuses on a deadly stretch of shifting sands

SEE PAGE 57

Kent Weekend



Celebrating the fruits of the sea

Whitstable buzzes with the sights and sounds of the annual oyster festival

TURN TO PAGE 49

PLUS: New films tackle the disturbing trend of teenage pregnancy - **talking point p44** Now is your chance to own a unique slice of literary history - **Kent's finest property of the week p58** Peugeot ready to launch revitalised 308 - **driving p69**







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Write move for Blake's 7 star

Nick Ames talks to Brian Croucher, former Blake's 7 and EastEnders star, who now runs a forum that gives up-and-coming writers the chance to compare work and exchange ideas



PASSIONATE: Brian Croucher (pictured, inset, as Space Commander Travis in Blake's 7), is hoping that his years of experience in TV and film can inspire the next generation of writers who visit his new forum

ACTOR and director Brian Croucher has set up a group to encourage new writing in Kent.

Meetings are held at Deal's Astor Theatre, where the authors can read one another's work and exchange ideas on characters and plot.

The sessions are new, but already a wide range of people has been attracted.

The first get-together saw participation from two already-established BBC radio writers, a member of the Kent Youth Theatre, an American from Savannah and an Ashford man who worked on a building site.

Brian, who has starred in TV shows EastEnders and memorably as the eyepatch-wearing Space Commander Travis, who also had a bionic arm with gun attached, in the cult classic series Blake's 7, set up his sessions in response to what he felt was a dearth of opportunities for writers in the county.

"Writing is a solitary business," he said. "But if you live in London, there are lots of outlets – that is where the theatres and other productions in TV and radio are.

"In my time in the theatre it is the writers I respect the most – what comes out of their head is the most important thing. If they put together the right words, then an actor can put them across in an entertaining, possibly dangerous, way.

"In my experience, most writers start off writing for the theatre, then of course they may move on to TV or film. The playwrights' forum I have set up enables people to get together and discuss their work – maybe a character is not working or isn't developing properly and they need some ideas. So by talking and discussing what they are trying to achieve, the participants can help one another.

"I have been an actor for 40 years, but even when I was at drama school I was interested in directing – which I actually find more satisfying – and have recently been involved in a project at a London theatre where five new 20-minute plays are staged every quarter. Maybe that is something we could introduce to the Astor."

Brian said he chose the Astor as Deal had quite a reputation for having an artistic community. "There are some writers and musicians around, so that's why I thought it was a good choice," he said.

Brian has wealth of TV experience, with appearances in Grange Hill, Dr Who, Edge Of Darkness, The Professionals, Minder, Dempsey And Makepeace and Fool's Gold, a TV movie about the Brinks Mat robbery. He is possibly best known for his role as fiery hardman Ted Hills in EastEnders, as well, of course, as Travis.

He he chose to embark on a career in acting while serving a short spell at Her Majesty's pleasure for a driving offence.

He said: "I realised I didn't want to be a rebel without a cause, so I started evening classes and then went to drama school. I started off studying to be a stage manager, then I went on to the acting course. I have always been interested in stories.

"Everything you watch has a story. It can start with 'Once upon a time' and end with 'They all lived happily ever after', or it can just start with a car coming out of the mist. But there is still the narrative there, the journey – that is what interests me."

One of his first big roles was in the play Saved, written by Edward Bond and first put on at the Royal Court Theatre in November 1965. Set in London during the 1960s, it was a controversial production due largely to a scene involving the stoning of a baby.

Brian took over the role of Travis in the BBC science fiction series from another actor.

"That didn't worry me," he said. "After all, there have been five or six Tarzans, from Johnny Weismuller onwards.

Travis's sole mission was to kill the title character, Blake. When Brian went back into stage-acting with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Travis was written out.

"In my last scene, when my character was killed off, I was wearing this tight jumpsuit which was very uncomfortable and I'd been waiting around all day. I also had on a Peter Pan-style flying belt and the zipper on it broke and they had to use a pair of pliers, just a few inches from a tender spot.

"When I was supposed to plunge to my death I had to shout something. I think I might have said something about the director."

• If you're interested in joining Brian Croucher's writing group, you can email him via info@theastor.org.

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On **Thursday 29th September 2011**, we're off to the South of France for more fundraising mayhem in **Martha Trust's 2011 car challenge!**
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YOUNG MUM: While not all teenage pregnancies prove to be unwelcome, many cause harm and suffering

Areas of Kent have some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the UK. Reporter MARIJKE COX talks to professionals to find out what is being done to tackle the problem, and discovers the long-lasting damaging effects suffered by young mums

BREAKING CYCLE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY

TEEN pregnancy has been a problem plaguing parts of Kent for years and, while still a step away from an epidemic, it has become a major concern for authorities.

Despite a fall in numbers nationally, Britain remains the teenage pregnancy capital of Western Europe and a handful of areas in this county are the worst offenders, with some boasting the highest rates in the UK.

The latest Office for National Statistics data for 2009 showed a rate of 38.3 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17 across the country.

In Kent, the rate was below average at 34.7, but broken down into districts, worrying results were revealed.

In Thanet the rate of conceptions per 1,000 15 to 17-year-old women was 53.1; in Swale 47.3; in Shepway 44; and Dover 41.1.

Although this showed a small drop from previous years, it fell far short of the target set out by the previous Labour government in 1999 which looked to have under-18 pregnancy rates halved by 2010.

Health experts said there was strong evidence to suggest teen pregnancy was linked to poverty and deprivation, which was highlighted in Kent where the highest rates were seen in the most deprived areas.

"We know also that teenage parents are far more likely to have children who become teenage parents themselves," said Hilary Pannack, chief executive of national teen pregnancy charity Straight Talking, which works with authorities and schools across the country.

"However, we do not know how many private abortions or early miscarriages are taking place.

"There is a big difference between teenage pregnancy and parenthood. Teenage pregnancy can be linked to a one-off mistake, alcohol-related behaviour or sexual abuse.

"Teenage parenthood on the other hand can mostly be attributed to low self-esteem and low sense of achievement.

"We know that, for instance, girls are more likely to become parents on the point of leaving school as they see parenthood as a 'career choice'."

Mrs Pannack told Archant KoS Media that research carried out by the charity also suggested a link between domestic violence and teenage pregnancy.

"Rates have begun to come down slightly although considering we still have the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe, we need to do far more," she said.

"The emphasis has been on encouraging schools to deliver quality Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and to persuade the Government to make SRE statutory, but this has been an uphill struggle.

"At Straight Talking we believe that, while SRE is important, it's also vitally important to give young people a reason why not to engage in early parenthood as well as how not to get a girl pregnant."

She added: "Education is helpful and too many of our young people disengage from school. Forty per cent of teenage mothers leave school without any qualifications at all.

"There is a famous quote which says that ambition in the best contraception but it is also true that high achieving young people can display different destructive behaviour, so a balance has to be found.

"Making sure all schools reach their targets is not the whole answer. There are many other factors which need to be addressed."

She added that the power of peer education should not be underestimated, where children learn sex education from the playground and often get the wrong information.

> **Teenagers are less likely to seek help. Unplanned pregnancy can be devastating for teenagers and have a real impact on their future health, well-being and finances**
>
> **DIRECTOR OF HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FOR KENT,** ANDREW SCOTT-CLARK

A conference was held by Medway Public Health Directorate last week as part of the annual Get Sorted roadshow tackling teen pregnancy. This year's campaign is working in areas of high deprivation and looking at issues such as teenage pregnancy and substance misuse. The event at Hazlitt Art Centre in Maidstone brought together experts to discuss the causes of teenage pregnancy, reducing inequalities, and improving access to contraceptive services.

They looked at delivering effective SRE in primary and secondary schools and further education colleges; working with young parents to prevent a second unplanned pregnancy; and addressing underlying risk factors such as low self-esteem and educational attainment.

Plans to integrate teenage pregnancy strategies into local performance management structures as well as pooling budgets to deliver a streamlined approach to reducing rates were also discussed.

In east Kent an NHS drive to reduce teenage pregnancy has been launched with an online campaign designed and created by four students from Thanet College. Thanet has one of the highest rates of teen conception in the UK.

Three short YouTube films, called Prospectus, Games, and Hindrance, tackle the issue of how unplanned pregnancies can impact a young person's future, their finances and their lifestyle.

A Facebook page called Future, Money, Lifestyle was also created as part of the campaign.

Andrew Scott-Clark, director of health improvement for Kent, said: "Teenage conception is a health problem as research has shown that it can lead to premature birth and low birth weight, as well as other issues.

"Teenagers are also less likely to seek help when they are pregnant, often leaving it too late to have routine scans and tests. While not all teenage pregnancy is unwelcome, unplanned pregnancy can be devastating for teenagers and can have a real impact on their future health, well-being and finances. These films tackle the issue using humour and creativity to get the safe sex message across."

NHS communications manager, Jo Treharne, said it was important the students came up with their own ideas for the films as they were focusing on people their own age. "They know what works. The films show a lot of creativity – hopefully they will get the point across, too."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

Write to: KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25
Telephone: 01303 817000
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Online: kentnews.co.uk

Pictures: MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WAR



FINAL JOURNEY: The last sight thousands of British troops saw of home before moving on to camp in France (above) was Folkestone harbour, as they embarked upon their fateful journey to the trenches

How the French see our role in World War One

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN is currently under way to commemorate the role played by Folkestone in World War One.

The vast majority of British Army soldiers who fought in the trenches of northern France and Belgium from 1914-18 embarked from the port after arriving in the town at the now disused station alongside the harbour.

Many were also trained at what is now Shorncliffe Barracks and the Step Short campaign – named after the order used to march the men to the waiting ships – is looking to honour their memory.

Not all the passengers were soldiers, but most were fighting men – and estimates suggest that while 10 million left for the Western Front, two million fewer return journeys were made. For many, the sights and sounds of Folkestone harbour were the last they saw of home.

The British Army's role in the war against the Kaiser's Germany and its allies Austria Hungary and Turkey is well documented, but in the main the accounts are by British writers and historians.

Now Frenchman Frederick Hadley has put to paper his views on those men who left the shores of Kent nearly a century ago.

Mr Hadley is curator at the Museum of the Great War on The Somme in the small town of Peronne, and his work is entitled The British Army in the Great War.

It focuses on how the Army was recruited, its structure, command and the troops from what was then the British Empire.





NOVEL: French author Frederick Hadley's book looks at how the British Army was recruited and organised during the Great War

The book starts with details familiar to most people with an interest in British military history, but possibly ones that are not so obvious to the French readers at which it is primarily aimed.

Mr Hadley explains how units such as the East Kent Regiment were recruited locally, and provides a map to show the British Isles and how they are broken down into recruitment areas.

In the conclusion the author offers up his own opinions of the way the conflict is remembered in today's Britain.

Mr Hadley writes: "Britain still places great importance on remembering its dead, with a sense of melancholy for British greatness and for a way of life remembered as less complicated. The idea of sacrifice, something so central during the war, continues to represent the war: the image of the young volunteer killed at the front with his Pals Battalion still weighs on Remembrance.

"This intense feeling of loss arouses strong reactions. On a regular basis, particularly British controversies flare up over butcher generals, over why the war had to be fought, over its links with the Second World War and the role of 1914-18 in the decline of Great Britain.

"As time passes the legacy of the Great War does not diminish, on the contrary. Glorious or tragic, the Great War of the British Army marks a major turning point in British history."

When Folkestone remembers its war dead at the memorial now sited at the spot from which many soldiers of the Great War marched to the waiting ships, many French visitors gather with flags and other tributes. This book is an interesting look at how our cross-Channel ally now sees the British Expeditionary Force – once labeled "contemptible" by a disdainful Kaiser.

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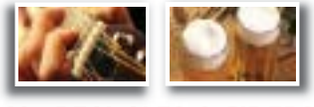
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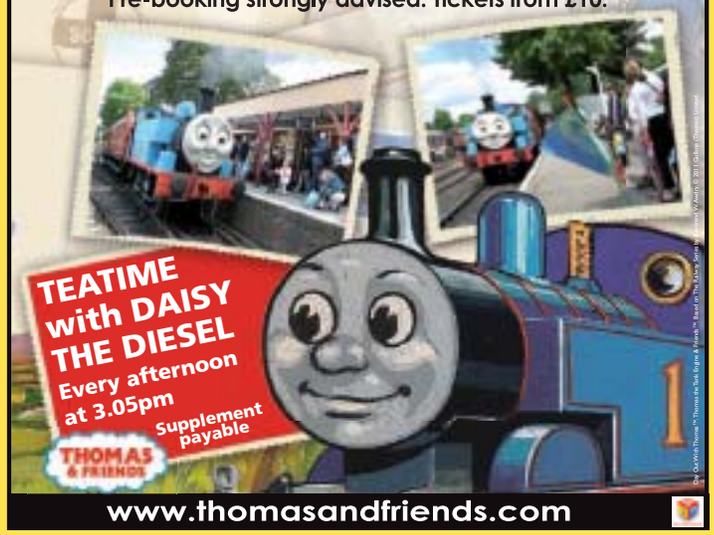
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Pie's the limit for city boy with East End in his veins

Joe Bill meets John Baker, who has gone back to his roots and brought a London favourite to diners

AS EVER more Londoners leave the capital to fill the county of Kent, it is inevitable that the capital's traditions will come with them.

A landlord of more than 35 years, John Baker is one such publican who has brought a taste of his old East End home to the Garden of England.

The 57-year-old landlord at The Ship Inn in Ospringe has been in the business for most of his life and comes from a family steeped in publican history.

He said: "I have worked in pubs since the age of 16, just doing bottling up before finally getting behind the bar. My older sisters all had pubs in places like the King's Road in Chelsea, Holborn and Bermondsey."

John does not hide his love for his home turf, with pictures of his beloved West Ham United FC scattered around the bar.

He said: "Of course, when you originate in the East End like me, I'm a West Ham supporter through and through – cut me in half and I am claret and blue."

But it is not the football connections that keep his punters coming back for more, it is the success of his restaurant venture.

On the first Wednesday of every month, John orders in traditional East End pie, mash and liqueur to serve his guests.

Having taken over The Ship in 1987, John has come up with a number of ways to keep his regulars coming back, but this new idea has really taken off.

He said: "It is 100 per cent quality mince meat, in a pastry which is served with mashed potato and the famous liquor. The liquor is based on an eel sauce.

"The East Londoners used to boil the eels and use the juice mixed with cornflour and parsley, and pour it over the meat pie and mash. It still tastes as good as it always did."

The pies are delivered the day before pie-and-mash night from one of the famous Manzes shops in the capital. That way the pies remain fresh and ready for the diners.





RAISE A GLASS: John Baker, right, has been running The Ship Inn in Ospringe since 1987 and has built the pub up to become one of the most popular in the area

John said: "Obviously I have some contacts in the area and I knew the pie shops up there, so when I approached them and asked if they would supply it they agreed."

The landlord offers his diners a deal of pie, mash and liquor plus a drink of choice for £6.50.

He said: "It has been very busy and has proved to be very popular, so much so that customers have got to book up at least a week in advance.

"People that have moved from London that have roots there have grown up on it. There are also not that many outlets in Kent that do it at the quality we do. And I think that's why they come here. I never have I pie left over, and If I did I would eat it myself."

The Ship Inn offers hungry punters a good range of food from the general menu as well as a seasonal specials board. And it remains progressive in terms of food, offering a gluten-free optional menu.

The award-winning pub garden and stage mean that people travelling along the A2 often stop off for a quick bite to eat.

John said: "I really think it's a bit of a hidden gem sometimes because, as it lies on the A2, people drive by and don't realise how nice it is inside.

"I keep it clean and use my flowers and garden to invite people in – and the quotes I always get are 'My goodness, we never knew how nice it was in here'."

Complete with Second World War pillbox on the corner of the building, The Ship Inn is the last remaining pub in the village on the outskirts of Faversham.

It is no coincidence that this has a lot to do with the landlord offering alternative options just like that of the pie-and-mash night.

But John says he will continue to keep his feet on the ground and maintain the quality of his thriving venture.

"It has been so busy recently that I have considered making the night every two weeks rather than every month, but I don't want to flood it and move too fast," he said.

"It is good now, so let's just see where it goes from here."

Judging from what we've seen so far, John is not talking pie in the sky.

New Nepalese on the block wins early convert

RESTAURANT **Review**

GURKHA Restaurant advertises itself as the new taste in town, and from my first mouthful of its delicious food I was a convert.

My guest and I managed to claim the last table on a busy Saturday night, waiting just five minutes after walking in from the street.

We were greeted by friendly staff in this light and modern eatery, and seated in the middle of a modern and rather small – but somehow spacious – room.

Our waitress brought us prawn crackers while we perused the menu, recommending two speciality starters as worth a try. Eager to experience real Nepalese cuisine, we were happy to follow her suggestion.

Momo, or Nepali chicken dumplings (£2.95), with a tomato and sesame seed chutney, were light and tasty, but



the dish of the day was choyla (£3.50).

Chargrilled spring lamb, tossed with herbs, olive oil and fenugreek seed, it may not sound like much, but it almost caused a row as I kept trying to steal more and more from my guest's plate – and I'm a confirmed lamb-hater.

For the main course I chose mach johl (£9.90), an unusual but very tasty monkfish curry, while my guest opted for king prawn reshmi makhani (£5.70). This was a mild curry not unlike a korma, but so much more interesting than the staple Indian dish.

Both our choices were delicious and went down very nicely, accompanied by bhenta tarkari, sliced aubergine (£3.20), and kalo daal, black lentils (£3.60), and pilau rice (£2). My guest enjoyed the aubergine possibly more than her main dish, but I felt the black lentils deserved the prize for this course, being a lighter, more interesting take on the traditional dish. I found them simply delicious.

Having devoured everything ordered, we found ourselves with no room for pudding but thankfully not suffering from that horrible feeling of over-indulgence.

Add a bottle of wine and our meal came to a reasonable £49.85. The whole meal was top-notch, along with attentive but not intrusive service in a tastefully relaxed setting. However, even if Gurkha Restaurant had failed in any (or possibly all) of these things, I'm a convert on the strength of that one starter alone. The meal was good, but choyla was exceptional.

As we emerged into the din of a traditional Maidstone Saturday night, I found myself already contemplating a return visit, but if that proves impossible I have the takeaway menu – I fear these newcomers will come to know my front door well.

Erica Jones

Gurkha Restaurant,
112 Week Street,
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Farmers' markets

Mersham

A NEWCOMER to the growing number of markets is now being held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm every second and fourth Friday in the month; it features top-quality local produce at very competitive prices.

Horsmonden

HORSMONDEN farmers' market has some 20 stalls, covering a full range of produce including meat, game, poultry, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, honey, prepared pies, pastries, cakes and bakes and more exotic produce such as prepared Italian meals.

Bridge

THE market at The Red Lion pub on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy fresh local food and drink which contributes to their well-being, protects their environment and respects animal welfare.

Tunbridge Wells

THE farmers' market is located in the historic centre of Tunbridge Wells, The Pantiles. It revives the tradition of an open-air market held here a few centuries ago on the first and third Saturdays between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

Hythe

HYTHE farmers' market was established in March 2004 and is now located in the Methodist church hall (between Chapel Street and Prospect Road); it is open on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10am to midday.

Elham

THE Elham market is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the courtyard of The Rose And Crown pub, from 10am to midday. It offers a selection of locally-produced fruit and vegetables, eggs, fresh meat, game, bread and honey.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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The beautiful seaside town is preparing to celebrate the sea's bounty









SUMMER BREEZE: From oysters to fish, tug-of-war to a relaxing stroll along the beach, Whitstable Oyster Festival celebrates the many delights of the sea

THE town of Whitstable has been celebrated throughout the world for its association with oysters for hundreds of years – but the festival has roots that go back further than even locals might think.

From Saturday to Friday, July 23-29, the town will be jampacked with revellers and events to watch, food to taste and activities in which to take part.

And it carries on a tradition stretching back centuries.

In Norman times, Whitstable was already an established fishing port, and fishermen and those who kept the harbour free of silt customarily held an annual ceremony of thanksgiving for their survival and harvest.

The fishermen naturally held their festival celebration during the slack period and closed season for oysters.

As a 'holy day', the festival would include a formal church ceremony, after which the townspeople would spend the rest of the day in feasting, dancing, playing games and contests.

With the feast day of St James of Compostella – patron saint of oysters – falling on July 25, this date eventually became the accepted time to hold the festival, which is why the festival is still held in summer even today.

The exact form of the original ceremony is not recorded but would have probably centred on a formal blessing of the town, the sea, the fishing fleet and the fishermen and dredgers themselves.

The current event symbolically recreates the Landing of the Oysters, with Whitstable Sea Scouts bringing oysters ashore for a formal blessing by clergy before being presented to the Lord Mayor.

This takes place on Saturday at Long Beach at about 5.30pm and ends with a street party.

From around 6pm the oysters are passed to inns and restaurants as part of the colourful Oyster Parade as it travels through the town centre.

Roads will be closed to traffic to allow the procession of music, circus performers and dancers to show off their talents, while shops and restaurants will be offering special treats.

The Blessing of the Waters service will be held at Reeves Beach on Thursday, July 28, organised by the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, and the local tradition of grotter building – creating hollow mounds of sand or mud with an outside decoration of oyster shells – which is still practised on the same day.

Originally built by children who would beg a penny for the grotter much as other children did for Guy Fawkes, today's grotters are built purely for the fun of it and lit by candles to produce an intriguing nighttime spectacle.

The current festival was reintroduced when the local oyster industry, almost wiped out in the 1920s by a combination of disease and overfishing, was revived in the 1980s.

It is best described as a modern evolution of the older festival, being a mixture of arts, family events and food and drink, with some contests thrown in.

Other events include displays by the locally-based Dead Horse Morris starting in the harbour from 10am to 11.30am on Saturday and bands on stage at Belmont Park FC's ground from 5pm later that day.

A petanque competition takes place on Sunday, July 24, which also sees a food fair in the harbour as well as the infamous Mud Tug, which is held at low tide on the beach at 1pm.

Eight teams take part in this tug-of-war challenge in front of the Waterfront Club.

At 4.30pm that day The Oyster Challenge is held, where contestants have to down six oysters and half a pint of pilsner lager as quickly as possible.

Exhibitions, musical performances and workshops for children all take place throughout the week, and the finale on Friday, July 28, sees a traditional Punch and Judy show at the Umbrella Centre at 1.30pm, while the official end of the festival is marked with a parade from 8pm along The Street shingle bank with participants in fish- and seaside-related fancy dress.







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CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725**

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723**

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721**

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

FUN female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a relationship, 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive, loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

PRETTY woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969**

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793**

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064**

5FT 2ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, homely, down to earth, seeks female for LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366525**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, DVDs, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203**

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

PETITE brunette, blue eyes witty and fun, looking for similar kind, laid back male to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368407**

YOUNG very fit brunette 23yrs, likes to look good, seeks similar sporty guy for some relaxed fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368405**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

FEMALE 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999**

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192**

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinklies. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415**

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721**

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277**

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363969**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237**

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253**

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature, WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

ANNE 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243**

65YR old slim brunette, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676**

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393**

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125**

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897**

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910**

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359**

POLITE bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for caring friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666**

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543**

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curvy, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355391**

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197**

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918**

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817**

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share lifes adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959**

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, 44, 5ft 3ins, medium build, seeks genuine, caring, professional guy, 40-54, any race for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359586**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719**

CLARE 31, likes swimming, gym, socialising, meals out, sightseeing, seeks male. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353243**

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393**

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319**

JEFF 58, well built, 6ft, extra large chest seeking a female for fun and friendship. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386412**

38YR old male, olive skin, loving, caring, likes animals, walks, countryside, seeks blonde, slim lady, 25-35 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386396**

FIT young active 65yr old male, medium build, dog owner, likes countryside, seeks similar active lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369011**

DAVID 47, fair hair, likes enjoying life, seeks N/S slim, pretty lady for LTR. Romney Marsh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368159**

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368149**

RON retired active, feels 40, looking for fun and friendship with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370207**

SLIM good looking male, likes most things, seeks female for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366631**

FUN naughty guy, 60, seeks fun, naughty girl, any age/size. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386052**

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973**

LEWIS 40, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367713**

DAVE own hair/teeth, own car/business, likes holidays, golf, gym, meals out, theatre, seeks honest, genuine, slim female with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367559**

SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904**

SOUL love? Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, into music, films, art etc, seeks shapely, attractive female, 28-38 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366795**

Men Seeking

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392

(T&C's below)

GOOD looking 41yr old male, looking to make someone laugh and smile, 41-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371211**

FUN loving professional male, 42, OHAC, independent, likes good things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Gillingham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386754**

50YR old male, smoker, likes theatre, cinema, nights in/out, reliable, caring, honest, seeks female for LTR. Sidcup. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371175**

CROYDON gent, divorced, own home, father figure type, seeks slim, quiet natured girl, over 21 who prefers the older man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371225**

JAMES seeking fun loving lady for good times. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371143**

BRIAN young 72, seeks female, 60 plus for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371015**

RICHARD 46, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, theatre, beach walks, music, countryside, meals out, cinema, seeks female for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386362**

ASHFORD man, Peter, kind, affectionate, genuine, seeks soul mate, 50-60 for lasting relationship. Ashford, Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369371**

37YR old male, 6ft 7ins, blue eyes, dark hair, GSOH, seeks female. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368969**

RON retired, active, feels 40, seeks white lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368945**

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive lady for special relationship. Farnham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191**

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

PAUL 56, decorator, 5ft 8ins, cropped hair, attractive, genuine, kind, likes theatre, pubs, seeks female, 50-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366935**

6FT male, romantic, GSOH, caring, seeks female, 35-45 for friendship, possible romance. Single mum welcome. Sheerness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368249**

SHY average looking male, seeks funny girl to make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368219**

NICE looking guy 46, 6ft, slim, genuine, open-minded, no baggage, seeks relaxed, fun loving female with similar outlook for exciting LTR. SE London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369079**

IAN 5ft 6ins, blond hair, blue eyes, easygoing, GSOH, seeks female. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386282**

PAUL 47, large build, likes beach, cinema, music, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370693**

GENUINE male, 53, Steve, slim, GSOH, great personality, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386628**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, easygoing, loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female, 37-60 for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386622**

38YR old male, medium build, grey hair, blue eyes, seeks female for fun times. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386614**

39YR old handsome gent seeks young at heart mature lady for days out, shopping and good conversation. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370461**

DEREK 46, slim, genuine, seeks Foreign lady for possible LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386438**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **Or go online**

www.localgayadate.co.uk

GAY English guy 34, Luton based, non scene, seeks older, retired gent, 70 plus for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368163**

TONY looking for fun times with guy, 45-60, quite hairy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386074**

TALL blond, non scene gay hunk, 28, seeks older, solvent gent 75 plus for friendship/relationship. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368141**

STEVE mid 40's seeks male, 35-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368121**

ANDREW 35, likes nights out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368661**

NICE guy 31, CD, 5ft 7ins, seeking an older gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386186**

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Water, water everywhere and what a lot to eat

ON a hot summer day, or while enjoying the peace of an evening as the sun goes down, there are few more pleasant places to be than by the water.

Whether it's a meandering river winding its way through the meadows, by the blue sea under a cloudless sky, or on the shores of a deep and dark lake, there is something about the water that inspires.

And when you combine it with the best of food and drink in company of your own choosing, you have the ingredients for a perfect moment in time.

This week we feature some of the best eateries with that combination... high-quality food, excellent drinks and proximity to the waterside.

Kent boasts one of the longest coastlines of any counties and two great rivers.

The Medway divides the county into two – those who live to the east are Men (or Maids) of Kent, while Kentish Men (and, of course, their Maids) live to the west.

The county's other major river, the Stour, has been of great historical significance, with even the vast stones that make up some of the county's historic monuments being carried on barges ploughing their way along its waters.

So here are some places to sit by the water's edge, reflect and enjoy...



William & Brown
Whitstable

Why here...
Serves modern and traditional Spanish dishes, with the best suppliers and importers and menus following seasons. The Observer's Jay Rayner said: "As befits its location, the fish is epecially good."

On the menu...
Jamon Iberico, guindillas with anchovies, scallops with morcilla, sardinas a la plancha, Catalan honeyed chicken, beef Madrid, paella Valenciana, albondigas, calamares and more.

How to book...
William & Brown Tapas, 48 Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AQ; phone 01227 273373; www.thetapas.co.uk





Smiths Court
Margate

Why here...
Soaring 12ft windows and polished marble floors make The Orangery at Smiths Court one of the best dining venues in Thanet.
All produce is locally sourced and freshly produced.

On the menu...
Set-price table d'hote menu costs £19.95 for three courses, for lunch or dinner. Also a carvery on Sundays from noon until 3pm. This month's highlights are steak tartare and cannon of lamb.

How to book...
The Orangery Restaurant, Smiths Court Hotel; phone 01843 222310
info@organgeryrestaurant.co.uk
www.orangeryrestaurant.co.uk



Grove Ferry Inn
Upstreet

Why here...
The Grove Ferry Inn sits on the banks of the River Stour near Canterbury.
It has scenic gardens stretching along the river and, with a riverside terrace, barbecue and boat trips, is the perfect escape during the day or evening.
It is an excellent location for those who want to unwind and relax with fine food and drink by the side of the water and take in the delights of the best of a Kentish summer when the sun shines.

On the menu...
Fresh and local are the order of the day. Lunchtime favourites include the flatbreads to share and spatchcock chicken; on the butcher's block you will find various cuts of steak cooked to order. Desserts are also popular, along with the best of wines and beers.

How to book...
The pub can be contacted via the website, www.thegroveferry.co.uk, or by phone on 01227 860302.

Beachbrow
Deal

Why here...
A small family-run hotel with helpful, welcoming and friendly staff. Ideally situated opposite the pier, guests can unwind in the relaxing atmosphere while enjoying the views.

On the menu...
The hotel is proud of its menu of Kent-sourced produce, including Romney Marsh lamb, Alkham Valley beef, free-range chicken, duck and pork and local vegetables to suit all palates.

How to book...
Beachbrow Hotel, 29 Beach Street, Deal CT14 6HY
phone: 01304 374338
fax: 01304 373159





Dog and Duck
Plucks Gutter

Why here...
The Dog and Duck is located on the Saxon Walk, an area steeped in history.
This family-run pub and restaurant, which sits on the banks of River Stour, is open seven days a week and serves food every day from midday to 9pm.
You can enjoy the weather in the large garden, where bat and trap and croquet are free for all. There is live music in the garden every Sunday, weather permitting. Dogs on leads are welcome.

On the menu...
A large menu with specials is available and includes crab and salmon salads, carbonara, homemade pies and meat puddings, lasagne and desserts. All produce, meat and fish is sourced locally. Try the midweek menu (Monday to Friday), at £10 for three courses.

How to book...
Dog and Duck, Plucks Gutter, near Canterbury CT3 1JB (follow the signs at Sarre or Monkton to Preston)



The Swan
Westgate

Why here...
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Royal Military Canal





If you are after a relaxing stroll, or looking for something a little more taxing, this pleasurable walk along the Royal Military Canal in Hythe offers you the best of both worlds

WALKERS are spoilt for choice on how they want to explore the Royal Military Canal in Hythe. Whether you prefer a long walk or a short stroll, there is a lot to discover and a lovely slice of slow-paced rural life to be experienced on the banks of the canal in Hythe.

Hythe is one of the five original Cinque Ports (pronounced 'sink') on the Garden Coast. It is on a broad bay of the English Channel and a wide promenade overlooks a long stretch of beach and the English Channel to France. It is an ideal place to go for a great day out, with a summer picnic and safe bathing.

There are a few walking routes to be enjoyed along the canal. The four-mile walk makes an ideal afternoon's stroll. Many people, however, enjoy the challenge of the entire stretch of the canal – this can be done in a day, but most like to make a weekend of it.

The 28-mile-long Royal Military Canal, which links Kent and East Sussex, was completed in 1809 as a defensive barrier against Napoleon and the then-threatened invasion.

At its peak there were 1,500 men working on the project. The canal was dug entirely by hand, using picks and shovels, and the soil was carried away in wheelbarrows. By the time the Royal Military Canal was ready for use, the threat of invasion had long since past.

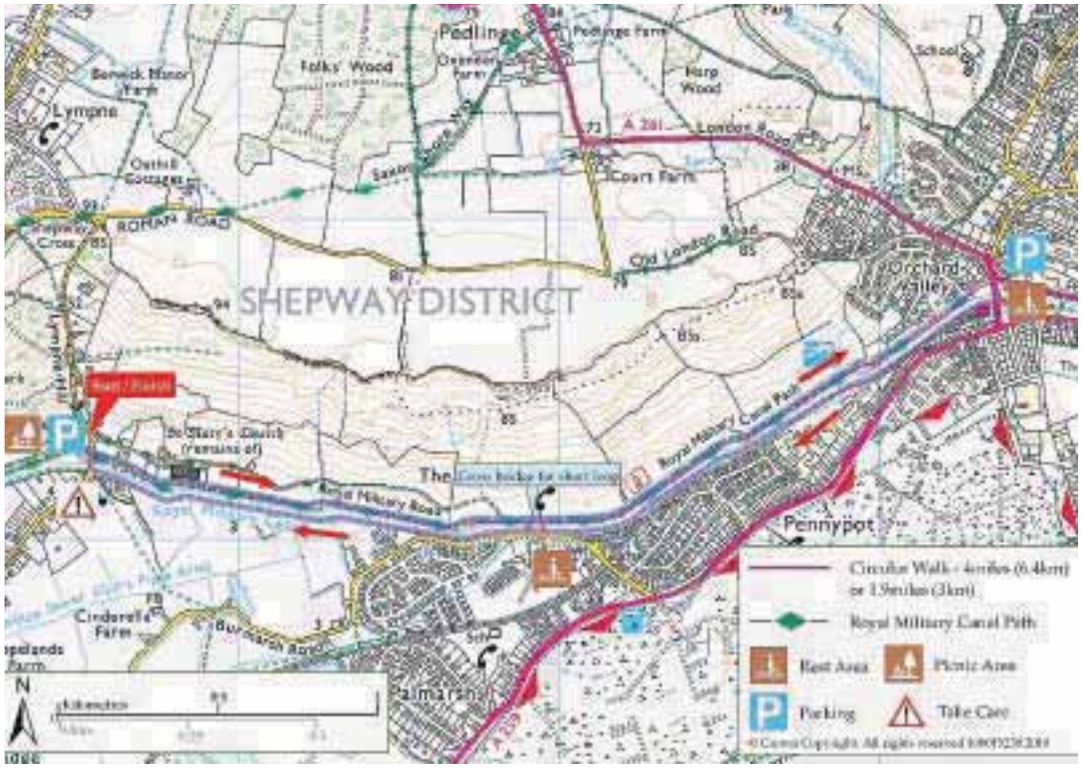
The canal, now a listed monument, still serves an important purpose today, managing water levels and providing flood protection. Its tree-lined banks provide a lovely setting and a home for many types of wildlife. The river also provides a welcome escape for many locals wanting to spend tranquil time fishing, walking or just watching the world go by.

The walk passes the world-famous Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway – a must for all visitors to Hythe. While the one-third-scale steam and diesel engines offer scenic tours of the unique landscape of Romney Marsh, it is also an important service for local schoolchildren.

The railway, the dream of millionaire racing drivers Captain JEP Howey and Count Louis Zborowski, was built in the 1920s and later extended to its current route, which runs to Dungeness.

Certain sections of the Royal Military Canal can also be enjoyed by cyclists and horse-riders. Visit the Explore Kent website for more information about these activities .

- **Location:** Hythe, CT21 4NT
- **Distance:** From the town centre or from West Hythe you have the choice of a 1.9-mile (3km) or a four-mile (6.4km) walk.
- **Terrain:** Flat paths, with a hard, fine surface. Ideal for all abilities, including pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- **OS Explorer Map:** 138
- **Parking:** At the foot of Lympne Hill, West Hythe, or many car parks in Hythe town centre.
- **Refreshments and facilities:** There are many pubs, cafés and restaurants in Hythe. Toilets are available at information point two; however, the adapted toilets are only accessible during opening times.





Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for the county's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Or call: 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)

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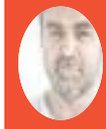
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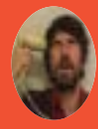
New arts venue for Ashford, visit the new website:
www.revelationstmarys.co.uk

St Mary the Virgin, Churchyard, Ashford TN23 1QG

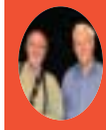
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Folk awarded
Chris Wood
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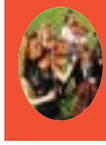
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* Charge for arrows

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www.wildwoodtrust.org
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Summer fun

Activities for the children

The Towers School, Ashford
Monday to Friday, July 25-29, and Monday to Friday, August 1-5
01233 634171

THE Towers School in Ashford is hosting events and activities over the school holidays for eight- to 16-year-olds.
Some of the activities lined up for the Summer Fun Academy include first aid, circus skills, dancing, cookery, jewellery-making, karate, go-karting and remote-controlled cars.
The school is also hosting roller-skating sessions through the summer. Roller-skates, helmets and pads will all be provided. Children can sign up each day for two or three activities or for a whole week.
The price is £10 per day or £50 for the week. Roller-skating is £4 each session.
The first two skating sessions are on Tuesday, July 26, and Tuesday, August 2. Children should bring suitable clothes, suncream and a packed lunch.

Conservation

Bittern by the birding bug

Dungeness RSPB reserve
July to August
www.rspb.org.uk/dungeness
adults £3, concessions £2

THE bittern, a scarce member of the heron family, has bred at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve for the second year running. This year there are two nests, both with young.
The reserve recorded its first booming male in spring 2009, suggesting that breeding could at least be a possibility.
Martin Randall, RSPB site manager, said: "The best way to tell if breeding has been successful is when we see the female parent flying to a nest with food for the chicks.
"After observing their activity last week we are delighted to confirm that there is not just one but two nests."
Male bitterns are polygamous and can mate with up to five females in the same season if habitat conditions are right.
Building on the first breeding pair on the reserve last year, this summer the male bittern has set up two homes with separate females.
Mr Randall said: "Up until 2009 we had bitterns spending the winter here, but they left for Europe to breed. For the last two summers they have stayed and bred here, which shows how successful the work to improve the birds' reedbed habitat has been."
RSPB guides will be on hand every weekend between July 16-17 and the end of August to help visitors see the birds.
For details, visit www.rspb.org.uk/dungeness.



Sculptures go on show

Carved art

The Harbour Arm Gallery, Margate
Until Tuesday, July 19
margateharbourarm.co.uk

PURE Form, a collective of artists from many backgrounds, is taking its show Stone Boats Don't Float to Margate.
Ben Kidger, a member of the group, said: "We enjoy a shared experience and ambition of direct stone-carving.
"The aim of the group is to study the art of carving in Canterbury, a place synonymous with the medium and to give it a contemporary revival."
Established and directed by Patrick Crouch, the group has moved to Canterbury College, where it extended the opportunity to students to work with professionals in the field of art and to discuss their work and ideas with individuals from other professions.
It is open to any students who wish to join the collective either as an addition or as part of their studies at college.
The exhibition is inspired by the form, architecture and artistry of Margate, now extended by the new Turner Contemporary building.
The exhibition will be open from 11am-4pm.



Masks from Sri Lanka

Devil dancing

Powell-Cotton Museum, Birchington
Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am-5pm
www.quexmuseum.org

THEY languished in the background virtually unnoticed for years, but now some 20 extraordinary devil dancing masks from Sri Lanka form a new exciting exhibition at the Powell Cotton Museum at Quex Park near Birchington.
Bought by Major Percy Powell Cotton at auction in London 100 years ago, the masks had been the collection of a Mr GA Jennings of Saltash, Cornwall. When and where he collected them remains a mystery.
The tradition of masked dancing and mask-making was especially strong in southern Sri Lanka, around the town of Ambalangoda and the city of Galle. It continues today, though focused now very much on the tourist market. The bulging eyes and cobra head-dresses distinguish these Sri Lankan masks from those found in other parts of the world.
The exhibition runs until the end of October. Entrance is £7 for adults and £5 for children.

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Exhibition
The notorious Goodwins

Deal Hoy, Duke Street, Deal
Until Sunday, July 31
01304 363972
www.searts.co.uk



DEAL'S summer festival has wound to a close for another year, but one exhibition remains open to the public until the end of July.
The Goodwin Sands display is being held at the Deal Hoy pub and includes stunning pictures as well as articles and books about the sands and their treacherous nature.
Many of the exhibited articles were written by former Deal boatman and local Goodwin Sands expert David Chamberlain.
The infamous sands consist of a 10-mile bank in the middle of the English Channel just six miles off Deal.
The notorious banks are believed to have wrecked more than 2,000 ships as they rest in a busy shipping lane.



Guided walks
Pull on your hiking boots

Throughout Kent
Mon, July 18, to Sun, August 7
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
08458 247600

PEOPLE across Kent are being invited to put their best foot forward for the Explore Kent Walking Festival.
From Monday, July 18, to Sunday, August 7, there will be more than 120 free guided walks in the festival, which coincides with the start of the school holidays.
The three-week programme is being run by Explore Kent, an arm of Kent County Council that promotes walking, cycling and horse-riding in the countryside and along the coast.
The festival has something for everyone; from families looking to keep the children entertained during the holidays to beginners wanting an easy introduction to walking; and from those just looking for a relaxing stroll in the sunshine to seasoned fans of the great outdoors.
Experienced leaders will offer a range of themed walks, focusing on nature, the coast, heritage and more.
Mike Hill, county council cabinet member for community services, said: "Kent has some of the most stunning countryside. This is a great opportunity for people to discover parts they never knew existed."

Triennial art
Tube map of top exhibits

Tontine Street, Folkestone
Until September
www.folkestonetriennial.co.uk
www.ucf.ac.uk

A NEW map allows visitors to embark on a London Underground-style journey at the Folkestone Triennial.
Students at University Centre Folkestone have created a Tube map of the Folkestone Triennial festival to guide visitors around past and present artwork sites this summer.
The students were briefed to plan a public intervention inspired by the festival and its walking tours. The group, formed of first-year students Joe Grey, Annmarie Chapman, Elisabeth James and recent visual-arts graduate Lola Godoy, was mentored and sponsored by organisers of the Triennial festival and staff at the university.
James said: "The 'lines' guide the viewer around Folkestone, but the schematic nature of the map forces visitors to work out their own routes between consecutive 'stations', thus importing an element of chance into their wanderings."
The innovative map is displayed in a prime location, halfway up Tontine Street, near the gateway to Folkestone's Creative Quarter, presently marked by the Triennial Visitor Centre near the harbour.
University Centre Folkestone has launched a programme of installations and workshops as part of the Fringe events.





Olympic art countdown
Dover display

Dover Discovery Centre
Friday and Saturday, July 22-23
Open from 11am-4pm
www.dadonline.eu

AS part of the London 2012 Open Weekend, Dover Arts Development is delivering a programme of events including The Table, Bunting Forever and Dysarticulate 2.
Open Weekend is a series of sporting and cultural events taking place across the UK that will see thousands of people celebrate the One Year To Go countdown to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.
The Table exhibit is being made at the Old Sorting Office at Charlton Green from timber reclaimed from recently-demolished iconic buildings in Dover. The team is led by sculptor Anthony Heywood, pictured (he's on the left).
Bunting Forever is an exhibit designed to produce handmade wool bunting to welcome the Olympic torch to Dover in 2012. Bring old jumpers and unused wool to Dover's Market Square for the launch.
Dysarticulate 2, meanwhile, is an opportunity to take part in a unique public artwork by making a field of paper flags from pages of old, unusable books.



Own a slice of history



Bleak House
Broadstairs

£2,000,000

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ONE of the most famous addresses in the world of literature has just gone on to the market.

Bleak House in Broadstairs, a favourite holiday home of Charles Dickens and his family, is on the market with Chesterton Humberts Country Department for £2 million.

Believed to have been built in about 1801 and known as Fort House, it was used by the Dickens family between 1837 and 1859 and it was here that the author completed David Copperfield in 1851. The house is also believed to have served as the inspiration behind the novel Bleak House, although the property itself was only renamed Bleak House many years after the novel had been published.

Now providing extensive and well-presented family accommodation over four floors, the property comprises a principal bedroom suite









with en-suite bathroom and dressing room, five further bedrooms, three bathrooms, a drawing room, dining room and music room.

Dickens's study, which looks out towards the sea on the extreme right of the building, is still in place, as well as extensive cellars, which were formerly used as a museum.

The Grade II-listed property also benefits from private parking and a raised terrace running along the southern elevation of the house, with steps down to the sweeping lawn and formal gardens.

James Grillo, associate director at Chesterton Humberts country department, said: "Bleak House is one of only a few properties in the world to be lived in by Charles Dickens, one of the world's most famous authors, and naturally this gives the house scarcity value.

"This is a property that could be seen as an antique, and there are a number of buyers who buy properties with this sort of provenance because they just relish the opportunity of being a custodian of such a historic house. But, having previously been used as a museum and with planning permission for a boutique hotel, there is another type of buyer that will recognise the commercial potential of the property and look to buy it for that reason.

"The Dickens link raises the property's profile within the country-house market and will attract a number of people who have might not have previously considered this sort of property had it not been for the fact that they had seen it in the Press, but even without this link, this is a beautiful property in a stunning location, an opinion obviously shared by Dickens himself."

Chesterton Humberts, itself established in 1805, is the only estate agency to employ its own full-time house historian, Melaine Backe-Hansen, who has been researching the history of the property.

She said: "Bleak House was very important to Dickens as he often stayed there on his frequent visits to Broadstairs.

"According to John Forster, a friend and official biographer of Dickens, Bleak House was 'the residence he most desired'. His daughter, Mamie Dickens, also said that Bleak House was the one 'on which he had always set his affections'."

The property is, of course, in the historic seaside town of Broadstairs, renowned for its quaint squares of fishermen's cottages and Blue Flag sandy beaches; it is within easy walking distance of all the local amenities, including shops, schools, restaurants and public houses.

The town has a mainline railway station, which is just a short journey from Ramsgate and its high-speed services to London St Pancras.

For more information, phone James Grillo at Chesterton Humberts country department on 020 7594 4746, or visit www.chestertonhumberts.co.uk

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PICTURE POSTCARD: Tenterden is well known for its tree-lined high street and individual shops

Growing interest in tranquil town

THE Cinque Port of Tenterden, south-west of Ashford, is embodied by its tree-lined high street. Historic and rural, the small town offers visitors a quieter pace of life than its nearest neighbours.

The town grew around the wool industry during the 14th century and prospered due to its central location, offering straight routes to Ashford and Maidstone, as well as Hastings and Rye.

The Kent and East Sussex Railway line, which runs to Bodiam, is the town's traditional tourist draw, but the annual Tenterden Folk Festival has also brought music fans since 1993.

Tenterden has also as a tradition of late-night shopping on the first Friday of December.

It is very much a unique town, sometimes referred to as one of Kent's micro-climates. Properties that sell well are retirement apartments and large family homes – semi-detached three-bedrooms and four-bedroom detached.

The town offers exceptional amenities, including the leisure centre with pool at the end of Recreation Ground Road, which was opened by Diana, Princess of Wales; a medical centre; and (some say too many) supermarkets.

Tenterden is well known for its individual shops and coffee houses.



First-time buyers can find it difficult to get on the property ladder as the cheapest starter homes tend to be priced around the £200,000 mark.

This causes a problem and tends to mean the sales come from either second homes, as holiday cottages, or buy-to-let.

Many of the buyers come from out of the area, with many current residents having moved from south London. These buyers are predominantly downsizing and looking to take early retirement.

This allows the property market to move well, with the benefit being that the bulk of the business is not reliant on mortgages, which is a benefit to Tenterden's property-sellers.

Fun fact: Famed President Nixon-conquering TV interviewer David Frost was born in Tenterden.

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON TENTERDEN

What makes it special?
TENTERDEN is set in the very heart of the Weald of Kent, famous for its Seven Wonders of the Weald. Surrounded by unspoilt countryside, it is an extremely attractive town and home to the Kent and Sussex Railway, which has restored steam locomotives and carriages running along a track to the nearby historic castle of Bodiam. The line is frequently used as a film set for period dramas. The main street of the town boasts a series of attractive cafés, pubs, bars, restaurants and boutiques.

Room to improve
PUBLIC transport to Tenterden is not of the best quality and bus services are not as frequent as many residents would like. The nearest railway station is at Headcorn, which is about seven miles away. Some of the town's outer estates are in need of investment and regeneration and parking can be a problem in the centre of the town.

Prices
THE area has been one of the most popular for buying in the county, mainly due to the countryside location. The average price for a two-bedroom flat over the last year has been in the region of £213,000.
A semi-detached property has been fetching some £248,000, while a detached home has been going for £415,000.
The immediate area is also home to many large country houses, which are always at a premium price when on the market. These can fetch more than £1 million easily, and many come with large amounts of land attached.
The rental market follows a similar trend, with rooms in larger properties at about £200 a week.
However, in the outskirts of the town some bargains can be found by the diligent, with



rooms going for as little as £70.

Shops
THE town has a range of stores aimed at the visitor, including antiques, books and farming produce. But there are also convenience stores and supermarkets. Tenterden is still a market town and hosts a Friday market full of interesting stalls at which shoppers can buy a huge range of products such as bread, fresh salmon, olives or a bouquet of flowers.
The nearby village of Rolvenden holds an extremely popular weekly farmers' market every Thursday.

Schools
HOMEWOOD School has a reputation for excellence at secondary level and has its own sixth form. Today, Homewood is at the forefront of the 21st-century personalised learning agenda, with an accelerated timetable at both key stages and opportunities for a curriculum enabling students to sit examinations when they are ready to take them rather than by a fixed age. Educationalists from other countries regularly visit Homewood to observe.
The Kirk Building offers facilities of training for work-based learning, led by specialist tutors in catering, plus aspects of construction skills and enterprise. Village primary schools in the area have also received good reports in recent years.

Connections
THE main A28 leads to the north-east to Ashford, which is about 11 miles away. From there, the M20 connects to the M25 and the rest of the UK's road network as well as going to the Channel ports. Ashford also has the high-speed rail service to London, which takes 37 minutes to reach St Pancras, as well as services to other London stations. Eurostar trains run to Paris, Brussels and Lille. Cheriton is the terminal for Le Shuttle services, which take cars, and that is 15 miles away along the B2067; alternatively, it can be reached via Ashford and the motorway. Hastings and the Sussex coast is 20 miles to the south along the A28.

What's on
THE Kent and East Sussex Railway has an accompanying museum and there is a museum dedicated to the town. Despite being inland now, Tenterden was once on a tidal river and is officially one of the Cinque Ports. A music and food festival is held every summer and the town also has a folk festival, which is one of the best in the South East. Bonfire night sees a fireworks celebration.

Around and about
Sissinghurst Castle is an extremely popular tourist attraction and Chapel Down vineyards produce some of England's best wine – it was drunk as part of the royal-wedding celebrations by Prince William and his guests. Bodiam Castle is one of the finest examples of a medieval fortress in Britain and Biddenden is famous for its cider. The villages of Smallhythe and Wittersham are also extremely attractive spots.





New Kent Venue!

AUCTION

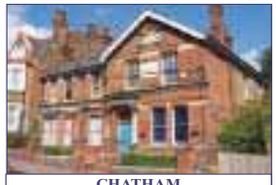
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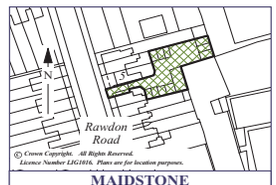
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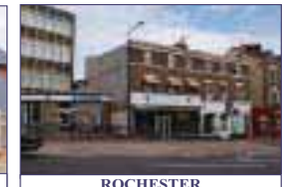
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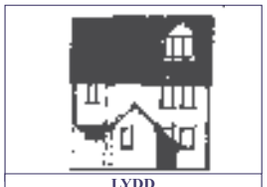
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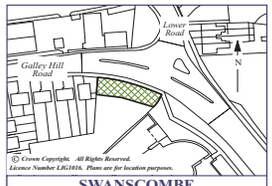
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Head to Valley Park for super savings



BILLED AS more than just a place to live, there is even more reason to pay a visit to the stunning Valley Park development of New England style homes on the the outskirts of Rye, East Sussex.

For the rest of this month you can save a massive £30,000 on the Albany, a spacious two bedroom stylish and contemporary double fronted semi-detached house which has the added bonus of a detached garage. The offer is so good that the developers have had to restrict it to selected plots.

Overlooking the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Valley Park is just half a mile from Rye station with its links to London St Pancras in around an hour and major coastal East Sussex towns. All Valley Park Homes are built to an extremely high specification and the Albany is no exception which boasts oak flooring and underfloor heating on the ground floor.

A central front door leads to the hall which has a cloakroom, the living room, kitchen/diner and carpeted stairs leading off it. The fully fitted kitchen/diner with its built-in appliances extends into a glass conservatory which overlooks the private rear turfed garden. Upstairs, there are two generous bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room to the master bedroom, plus a further family bathroom with its outside window.

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Valley Park has provided one of the first opportunities to buy such character homes built to the latest eco standards in Rye for many years. Once surrounded by sea, this fortified hilltop town played an important role in the defence of the south coast of England. These days, the river no longer harbours warships and is home to the local fishing fleet whose catches include Rye Bay scallops and Dover sole.

Meandering for over one and a half miles from the town to the coast, the river forms part of the picturesque scenery visible from several vantage points in and around the citadel of Rye.

These ancient buildings, cobbled streets and secret passages, once the haunt of smugglers and highwaymen, regularly attract film crews in search of historical settings for period productions.

The sheer concentration of living history packed into this vibrant market town makes a wonderful place to live. There are many pubs and restaurants in and around the town and the outlying villages all offering an alternative slice of country night-life way from the hustle and bustle.

The marshes are now one of the largest bird sanctuaries in Europe and there is so much to do in Rye with the miles of unspoilt dunes and sandy beach at Camber Sands nearby.

For more details on Valley Park call the sales office on 01797 222547 or visit www.valleyparkrye.co.uk







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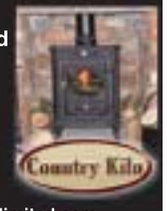
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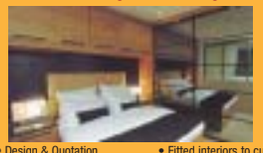
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Driving

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Revitalised 308 adds up

Peugeot gives family favourite a facelift and greener credentials

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Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Car shown for illustration purposes only. * Price is dependant on using Ford Credit. Metallic paint an optional extra.



Peugeot 308 maturing nicely

By Sam Davison
editorial@archant.co.uk

THERE'S a tendency in the carmaking business to present old wine in new bottles.

And there's a risk that if the original vintage was flaky, then no amount of fresh presentation will make it seem any better.

So Peugeot took a chance in 2007 when it repackaged its 307 family hatchback – a car best described as vin ordinaire – to create the 308 replacement.

As it happens, though, the French marque worked something of miracle with that old vintage; the 308 styling detail was crisper, the chassis more together, and the pièce de résistance was a quality cabin to send shockwaves through mainstream rivals.

When Peugeot followed up two years later with a 308 CC (coupé convertible) version, it even offered a leather dashboard option that would not have disgraced a car costing twice the price.

Now the 308 has had a facelift and, as with the 307/308 metamorphosis, the makeover is more than it appears, although Peugeot's 'new 308' label is a tad optimistic.

Nevertheless, the revitalised 308 five-door hatchback line-up (from £15,245) is impressive and now includes the Peugeot's slick diesel 112bhp 1.6-litre e-HDi 'stop & start' powertrain (from £17,665) partnered with a manual gearbox – e-HDi made its debut earlier this year on Peugeot's classy new 508 company car motor, but minus the clutch pedal.

That version does not really wow the driver, though the sums add up for company drivers. The six-speed manual version fitted to the 308, on the other hand, puts the driver more in touch.

It underlines its value, too, with a running total of how long the engine is switched off while sitting at the lights or simply crawling in stop-go traffic. I was staggered to see 10 minutes logged on a journey that took some 30 minutes.

Of course, it would be even better if it could tell you how much fuel it saved while switched off, but that's probably a tall order – maybe next time, though, judging by technical strides now being made across the motor industry.

Our road test showed that the e-HDi calls for very little ownership sacrifices; the ride and handling are good all-round and the engine feels refined.

But are stop/start systems for everyone?

Only if they come bundled as part of the bargain. If you don't do much city driving and must pay extra – it starts at about £900 with the 308 – then maybe it's not for you.

But eco benefits stretch across the 308 range generally, with meaner and cleaner engines, a 25-kilo cut in weight across the range and exterior styling touches that make the car sleeker and smarter, all adding up to lower road tax and fuel bills.

Cosmetically, the Peugeot 'gaping maw' grille has been toned down, making the 308 front end now cleaner and fresher, while LED running lights give a more upmarket look.

That premium cabin has been given even more quality and the 308's excellent rear headroom and cargo options make it one of the more versatile family hatches around – the full-length Cielo glass roof is a classy standard feature on our upmarket Allure-trim test car.

There is the usual wide choice of engines, with Peugeot's legendary diesels taking two-thirds of sales, augmented now by a road tax beating the low-emission eco diesel Oxygo.

The five-door hatch will continue to dominate body choice, with the CC (from £21,295) taking some 2 per cent of sales and the SW (estate) taking about 8 per cent.

The latter (from £16,245) continues to impress with its mix of capacity and class, plus the Cielo roof fitted to all but entry models.

PEUGEOT 308 e-HDI ALLURE: PRICE £16,399



VINTAGE MODEL: The 308 has had a facelift and includes Peugeot's slick diesel 1.6-litre stop/start engine, plus a full-length glass roof on the higher trim models

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Citroën beats road-tax woe

CITROËN customers can drive away in one of 10 road tax-beating models that emit less than 100g/km CO_2.

From the electric C-Zero city car to the new C4 hatchback, drivers can enjoy big benefits. Citroën's sub-100g/km line-up also includes three C3 superminis with a green micro-hybrid powertrain, including second-generation Stop and Start.



E-Type voted UK's favourite

JAGUAR'S E-type – celebrating its 50th anniversary this year – has been voted the UK's favourite sports car.

An online poll by organisers of the 21st annual Silverstone Classic motor-racing festival (July 22-24) saw Jaguar's icon sprint to an early lead and then claim 25 per cent of all votes, pushing the Morgan to second place and the TVR Griffith third.



Great price for special Suzuki

SUZUKI has launched a Special Edition SX4 model, X-EC, based on the popular SZ4 grade but priced at £13,430.

It is available in front-wheel drive with 120PS (119bhp) 1.6-litre petrol engine and manual transmission only but comes equipped with colour sat-nav, Bluetooth, USB port, unique alloys, electric folding door mirrors and rear privacy glass.

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Representative Example
(Based upon 3dr, non Metallic model)

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3rd Payment at 24 Months of	£3,831.66
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Amount of Credit	£7,663.34
Total Amount Payable	£11,495

60 PLATE Vauxhall Astra 1.8 SRi Sports Hatch 3dr Exterior Pack



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08 08	**CORSA 1.3 CLUB AUTO A/C 5DR**, Air Blue	£6995
10 10	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR**, Flame Red	£7795
08 58	**CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 3DR**, Air Blue	£7995
09 59	**CORSA 1.4 CLUB A/C 5DR**, Black Sapphire	£7995
09 59	**CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5DR**, Star Silver	£7995
10 60	**CORSA 1.3 ENERGY 3DR**, Oriental Blue	£8995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR**, Flame Red	£8995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR**, Waterworld	£8995
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10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR**, Metro Blue	£8995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 SXI A/C 3DR**, Black Sapphire	£9495
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 EXCLUSIVE 3DR**, Technical Grey	£9795
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR A/C**, Flame Red	£9995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR**, Star Silver	£9995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR**, Black Sapphire	£9995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR**, Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	**CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR**, Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	**CORSA 1.4 SE 5DR**, Star Silver	£10695
11 11	**CORSA 1.2 LTD EDITION 3DR**, Red	£10695

ASTRA SELECTION

05 05	**ASTRA 2.0 SRI 5DR**, Black Sapphire	£4995
06 56	**ASTRA 1.8 TWIN TOP SPORT**, Star Silver	£5695
07 07	**ASTRA 1.4 ENERGY 5DR**, Metro Blue	£5795
07 57	**ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN ESTATE AUTO 5DR**, Metro Blue	£5995
07 57	**ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN ESTATE 5DR**, Panacotta	£6695
09 09	**ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE 5DR**, Flame Red	£6995
07 57	**ASTRA 1.9 SRI CDTI X PACK**, Black Sapphire	£7150
08 58	**ASTRA 1.6 BREEZE 5DR**, Blue	£7495
08 58	**ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE 5DR**, Metro Blue	£7495
07 57	**ASTRA 1.8 TWIN TOP**, Red	£7695
09 59	**ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5DR**, Technical Grey	£7995
08 57	**ASTRA 1.8 SRI SPORTS HATCH EX PACK 3DR**, Black Sapphire	£7995
09 59	**ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5DR**, Pannacotta	£8250
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08 08	**ASTRA 1.8 SPORT TWIN TOP**, Air Blue	£9195
09 59	**ASTRA 1.6 SXI SPORTS HATCH 3DR**, Ultra Blue	£9495
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MERIVA SELECTION

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08 08	**MERIVA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE 5DR**, Silver	£5995
08 08	**MERIVA 1.4 CLUB 5DR**, Star Silver	£6495
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10 60	**NEW MERIVA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE 5DR**, Star Silver	£13795
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INSIGNIA SELECTION

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10 60	**INSIGNIA 1.0 TOURER EXCLUSIVE 5DR**, Technical Grey	£18495

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10 10	**COMBO 1.3 CDTI**, White	£6495+VAT
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COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SELECTION

10 60	**COMBO 1.3D**, Star Silver	£7995+VAT
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10 60	**VIVARO 2.0D SWB**, White	£10795+VAT
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NON-VAUXHALL SELECTION

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05 05	**ROVER 75 1.8 4DR**, Red	£3495
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04 54	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR**, Blue	£3795
05 55	**PEUGEOT 206 1.1 SPORT 3DR**, Silver	£3795
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Motability

Free deals shows Honda has driver's needs in mind

By Sam Davison
editorial@archant.co.uk

HONDA is introducing four years' free servicing and roadside assistance on a range of models to help drive down the cost of new-car-ownership.

This offer applies on the CR-Z hybrid coupé and Insight hybrid family hatchback and to British-built models the Jazz mini-MPV – but excluding the hybrid version – Civic family hatch and CR-V SUV. It also applies only on orders placed until the end of September.

Complementing the free servicing and roadside assistance is a range of four-year finance options, also to cut new-Honda ownership costs.

Honda UK's marketing chief Martin Moll said: "We have noticed a rising trend of people keeping their cars for longer and this new campaign reflects this change in ownership pattern.

"To drive away a Jazz for only £117 a month without the worry of the cost of servicing and roadside assistance for four years really shows we have our customers' needs and concerns at the front of our minds."

On top of these offers, customers looking to purchase a Civic can snap up a 1.4 Type S, pictured, for the reduced price of £12,995 – saving more than £2,000.

Honda is also currently riding high on glowing customer satisfaction reports that suggest



hassle-free new Honda ownership for those first four years.

The 2011 update on the respected JD Power Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study showed Honda retaining the number two spot in the manufacturer league table, with the Jazz celebrating its eighth consecutive win in the Supermini class.

For the second year running, the Accord was number one in the family car category, while the Civic and CR-V were ranked second in their respective classes.





1M-arvellous new coupé

BMW'S 1 Series M Coupé performance flagship has been eagerly awaited.

That it's a good bit cheaper than a current M3 will be a bonus for many, especially when the 1M shares a lot of M3 mechanicals.

It also shares the 3.0-litre, six-cylinder petrol motor of the relatively humble 135i, but twin turbochargers enable it to generate 340bhp.

It also looks the part; with a shortened M3 chassis it still has its big brother's wide track, and in many people's eyes probably comes closer to the image of the fondly-remembered E30 M3 of the late 1980s.

A legendary car to drive for that time, the £40,020 1M will now stake a claim of its own among today's enthusiasts.

Unlike some previous 'M' stars, it also comes packed with kit: airbags, electronic stability control, climate control, leather, cruise control and premium sound system.

The steering is weighty but direct, never failing to communicate the road conditions, while the stubby manual gearlever slots securely no matter how fast you shift.

Perhaps best of all for a performance car with a short wheelbase and wide track, the ride is more forgiving than you could hope for even when accounting for the car's super-low profile tyres wrapped around smart alloys.

The 1M's engine delivers a deep-chested rasp that rises to a rich baritone wail when the six-pot motor is fully extended – it will hit 62mph in 4.9 seconds. It's even better from the outside, thanks in part to the car's quad tailpipes.

You'll need to get in fast, though, because the full UK allocation currently stands at just 450 cars.

A tragedy when BMW has hit the jackpot with the right blend of mechanical components and emotional experiences.

There's nothing basic about the 1M, but it will serve up simple thrills for keen, experienced drivers all day long.

And it doesn't get any better than that.

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2010(60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles £14,995
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2011(11) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 350 miles....£14,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles....£13,995
2011(11) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 500 miles....£12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles....£11,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles....£11,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles....£11,995
2011(60) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles....£11,495
2011(11) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles....£10,995
2010(60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles....£10,995
2011(60) VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles....£10,995
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2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles....£9,495
2010(10) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 900 miles....£7,995
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2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 14000 miles£8,995
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 7000 miles....£8,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles....£8,995
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NEW FIESTA

2011(11) FORD FIESTA 1-4 TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, MIDNIGHT SKY, 500 miles....£12,995
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2005(54) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 29000 miles.£4,995
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FOCUS ESTATES

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RENAULT

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2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles....£7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles....£7,495
2008(57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles....£6,495
2001(Y) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION+ 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 30000 miles....£3,695

CHEVROLET

2009(09) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, POLY SILVER, 7000 miles £6,995
2009(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £6,995
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2009(59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 500 miles £5,995
2009(59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles£5,995
2008(08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles....£5,495
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HYUNDAI

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2008(08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £9,995
2010(10) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 900 miles....£7,995
2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles....£6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 13000 miles £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 7000 miles £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles....£5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles....£5,995
2007(07) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEASIDE BLUE, 19000 miles....£5,495
2008(57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 27000 miles....£4,995
2006(56) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles....£4,295

KIA

2010(10) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles....£7,995
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DAIHATSU

2008(08) DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £6,995
2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995
2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
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BMW

2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles....£19,995
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FIAT

2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles....£9,495

FUSION

2010(60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
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2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles....£7,995
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2004 04 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.2 TiD Vector, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 75,166 miles, Metallic SILVER, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Elec windows, Anti theft system, Elec mirrors, Air con, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Central locking, Computer, Full Service History, Metallic paintwork, Insurance Group: 13 ..... **£6,195**

2005 05 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 91,350 miles, Metallic silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Elec door mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Insurance Group: 17 ..... **£5,995**

2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Petrol, 90,835 miles, GREY. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Full Electric Pack, Alarm, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Electrically adjustable drivers seat, Heated front seat. Insurance Group:17 ..... **£4,795**

2001 51 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T Arc , 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 86,869 miles, BLUE, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Roof rails, Radio/CD, Traction control, Full Eclectic Pack, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alarm, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group:13E **£2,795**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero , 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 143,150 miles, Metallic silver. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Traction control, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alarm, Full electic Pack, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group:17A **£1,895**

OTHER MAKES

VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg , 48,812 miles, Black, 4 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Electric sunroof, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Rear headrests, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment. Insurance Group:7 ..... **£2,595**

NISSAN Primera 2.0 16v SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 X Reg , 156,076 miles, Metallic BLUE, 5 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Elec door mirrors/windows, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Trip computer, Climate Control, Metallic paintwork, Remote locking, Audio remote control. Insurance Group: 13E **£1,395**

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Thames Valley & Marlow Christmas

4-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Self drive, 4 nights half board-plus

Quote XP12-KOS

£319pp

Friday, Dec 23 to 27, 2011

The Crowne Plaza Marlow is a contemporary and luxurious 4 star hotel on the outskirts of the beautiful Buckinghamshire country town of Marlow. This hotel is a low-rise contemporary building in a stunning lakeside location near the River Thames. The hotel has a fully-equipped health club with indoor pool which is free to residents. The spacious bedrooms all have Satellite TV, tea/coffee-making and en-suite bathrrom with bath & separate shower.

INCLUDED:

- Welcome mince pies and tea/coffee or mulled wine on arrival
- 4 nights accommodation sharing a twin or double room
- Four 3-course dinners with 3 choices
- 4 full-English breakfasts
- One 3-course festive Christmas lunch
- Nightly entertainment including a disco one night


Picturesque Marlow


The Crowne Plaza's lakeside location


The hotel pool

English Summer Self-drive Deals

Britannia Hotels 99p Bar Breaks

3 nights half board+ from £99pp

Brighton Royal Albion Hotel
£119pp - Aug 19, Sept 2, 9 & 23 - Quote RA-KOS

Folkestone Grand Burstin Hotel*
£99pp - July 22, Aug 5 & 19 - Quote GW-KOS

Leicestershire Bosworth Hall Hotel
£119pp - Aug 5, 12, 19, Sep 2, 9, &16 - Quote BH-KOS

INCLUDED:

- En-suite bedroom
- dinners & breakfasts
- 99p bar for 3 hours nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

(*Entertainment included at Folkestone)


Brighton Royal Albion


Folkestone Grand Burstin

Britannia Hotels Midweek Breaks

4 nights half board from £109pp

Folkestone Grand Burstin Hotel**
£109pp - July 18, Aug 22 & 29, Sept 5 - Quote GB-KOS

Bournemouth Roundhouse Hotel*
£129pp - August 1 & 15 - Quote RH-KOS

INCLUDED:

- En-suite bedroom
- dinners & breakfasts

(*99p bar for 3 hours nightly at Roundhouse **Entertainment at Grand Burstin)


Lowestoft

Pontin's Suffolk Coast

Pakefield Holiday Park, Lowestoft

Self drive, 4 nights half board

Quote PS-KOS

Only £99pp

Monday, Aug 8 to 12, Sep 19 to 23, 2011

Pontin's Pakefield provides a super relaxing half-board break. There's a fabulous array of entertainment and activities for everyone to enjoy throughout your stay. Pakefield is on the Suffolk coast - near Lowestoft, the most easterly town in England with two piers, sandy beaches, quaint old beach huts and a good modern shopping centre.

INCLUDED:

- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- En-suite chalet
- Entertainment



Warner Isle of Wight Christmas Party

Norton Grange Resort
Isle of Wight
- Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights drinks inclusive

Quote NX11-KOS

£209pp

Friday, Nov 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for an early Christmas party on the Isle of Wight. We're bringing our usual brand of fun and games to Norton Grange with plenty of festive entertainment and food on the menu and Free Drinks so the party is bound to go with a swing.

INCLUDED:

- *FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Full entertainment programme
- En-suite chalet with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry


Warner Norton Grange

Warner Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party

Bembridge Coast Hotel
Isle of Wight
- Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights drinks inclusive

Quote MX11-KOS

£279pp Sale £259pp

Friday, Nov 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for a Christmas party with a super 1970s theme. Our party includes a screening of the movie Grease, a Bee Gees Tribute act and Free Drinks every day.

INCLUDED:

- *FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Full entertainment programme
- En-suite bedroom - upgrades available
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry


Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel





Warner Carry on New Year Party

Bembridge Coast Hotel
Isle of Wight
- Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights drinks inclusive

Quote BC1-KOS

£239pp

Friday, Jan 13 to 16, 2012

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party and Free Drinks every day. Warner's luxurious Bembridge Coast Hotel provides comfortable bedrooms with en-suite facilities and tea/coffee-making tray. There's entertainment every evening and a free bar every day.

INCLUDED:

- *Free drinks from 3.30m to 11pm on Friday; 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Full entertainment programme
- En-suite bedroom - upgrades available
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry


Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

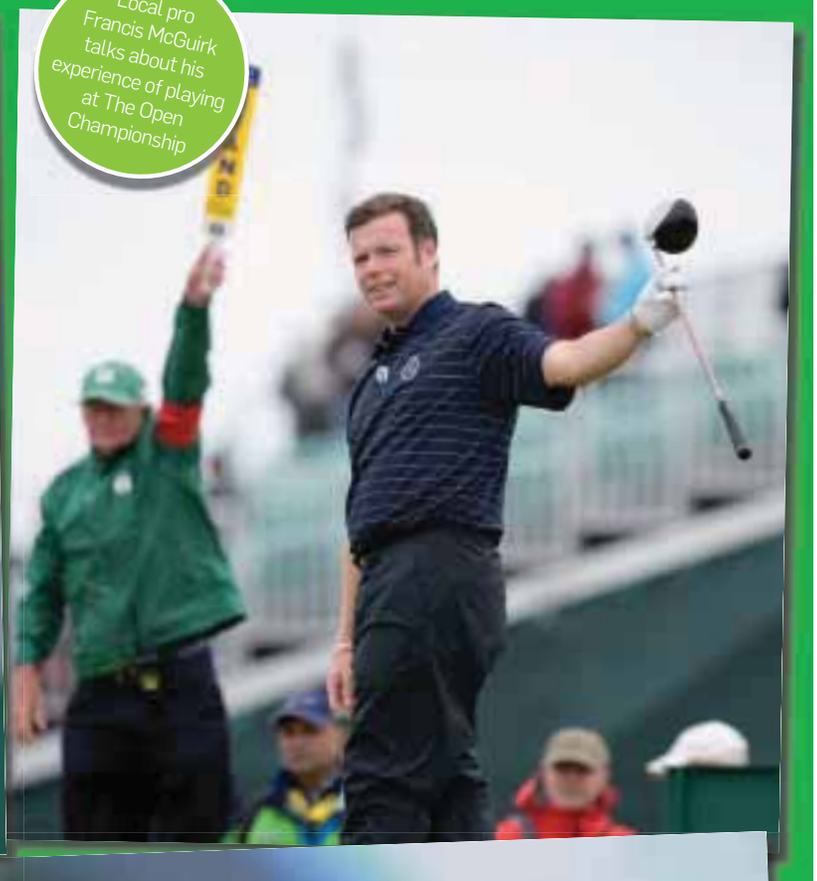
* Warner Breaks Free Drinks include: house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Be drink aware - abuse of alcohol can damage your health - www.drinkaware.co.uk

Sport

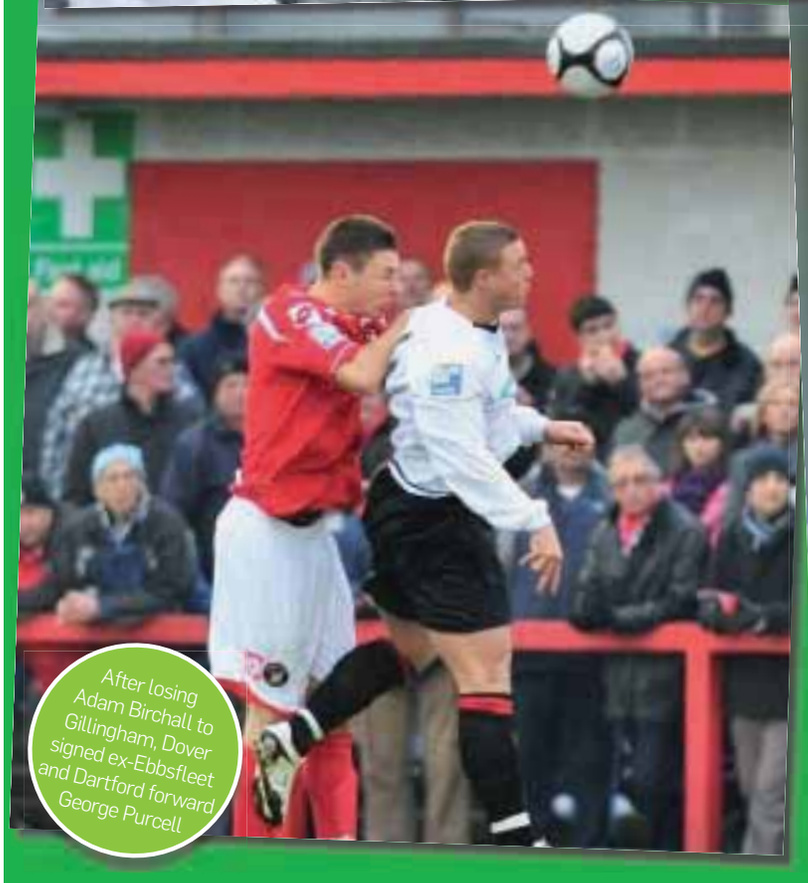
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After losing Adam Birchall to Gillingham, Dover signed ex-Ebbsfleet and Dartford forward George Purcell



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